

Resignation expected in next few days

Ridley loses support of Tory MPs

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

NICHOLAS Ridley is expected to resign from the cabinet within the next few days after losing the support of Conservative MPs over his attack on the Germans.

The trade and industry secretary, who was flying to London last night after a visit to Hungary, was being left by Margaret Thatcher with the dignity of making his own decision about his future.

A red warning light on the flightdeck of a British Airways jet added to Mr Ridley's problems yesterday by stranding him in Budapest for an extra four hours.

Friends said that Mr Ridley, who was due to meet close colleagues after arriving at Heathrow, would need time to digest the strength of the storm that had broken in his absence before making up his mind.

There is little doubt among Conservative MPs and ministers that, after hearing the state of opinion in the parliamentary party, Mrs Thatcher expects him to do so.

An officer of the Tory 1922 committee, Sir Marcus Fox, revealed yesterday that Tim Renton, the government chief whip, had been advised that the tide of Tory opinion was

strongly against Mr Ridley. Mrs Thatcher was informed of that verdict.

Mr Ridley's departure is expected at the weekend or early on Monday. There is an EC meeting involving trade ministers on Tuesday and the Department of Trade and Industry faces questions in the Commons on Wednesday.

A resignation from Mr Ridley would be accompanied by the announcement of his successor and any other consequential changes in the cabinet, it emerged last night.

Michael Howard, Tom King, John Wakeham and Cecil Parkinson are among the ministers mentioned as candidates to replace him, with the newcomer to the cabinet likely to come from a group including William Waldegrave, David Mellor and John Patten on the left, and Michael Portillo, Francis Maude and Peter Lilley on the right.

Yesterday in Budapest, a sombre looking Mr Ridley spent his time meeting Hungarian officials and avoiding the questions of journalists before retiring to the ambassador's residence to await the delayed flight.

Mrs Thatcher appeared anxious yesterday to avoid any impression that she was intending to sack Mr Ridley. She spent the afternoon at a carnival in her Finchley constituency, like Mr Ridley evading questions from journalists.

It was emphasized throughout the day that there were no plans for Mrs Thatcher to see or talk to Mr Ridley immediately on his return. Government sources suggested that if anything happened it would be at Mr Ridley's initiative.

Gordon Brown, the shadow industry secretary, attacked the prime minister last night for failing to discipline Mr Ridley. "By refusing to sack Mr Ridley or even call him back, carpet him, or just see him to demand an explanation,

and by letting it be known that the decision about his future rests entirely in his own hands, Mrs Thatcher is guilty of a dismal failure of leadership," he said.

"With this indecision following on top of the Ridley insults, her inaction today signifies an astonishing abdication of responsibility that will make Britain the subject of, at best, ridicule, and at worst, hostility throughout Europe."

Mrs Thatcher had a short meeting at the Commons yesterday with Tim Renton, the government chief whip who was briefed on Thursday night by officers of the 1922 Committee about the views of MPs.

Sir Marcus Fox, vice-chairman of the committee, said yesterday that "the climate from Mr Ridley's point of view" was very bad. He expected that "an important statement will be made very shortly."

Asked when that would be replied: "I do not care when it is - today, next week or in the recess. Some action will be taken." The party was unusually agitated about Mr Ridley's remarks. It was far too important to be left in the hope that it would go away.

Friends of Mr Ridley have accepted reluctantly that his continuation in office would make life difficult for John Major, although they cling to the hope that weekend opinion polls on the German question might show strong backing for his stance.

Mr Ridley swiftly withdrew his offending remarks, in which he accused Germany of wanting to take over the whole of Europe, on Thursday.

Last night, the trade and industry department revealed that Mr Ridley's visit to Hungary, an official visit intended to forge new trade links with the newly liberated Eastern Bloc country, had been plagued by problems from the beginning.

Officials had lined up meetings with government ministers including the minister of interior operations, the minister of industry and commerce and the minister of transport and communications. A spokesman said, however, that an emergency cabinet meeting had thrown doubt on the programme.

"We went to meet the new ministers in the new government there, but whether he met the people he was meant to or not, we don't yet know."

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Banks to fight random tax check on accounts

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S banks are trying to stop the Inland Revenue gaining wide-ranging access to bank accounts. The Revenue told banks only two weeks ago that it planned to examine accounts at random, without the permission or knowledge of the account holders, to hunt for illegal claims for untaxed interest.

The British Bankers' Association has called this an unprecedented breach of customer confidentiality and is mounting a campaign to block the powers in this year's finance bill, which comes up for its third reading in the House of Commons on Monday.

"This is an unacceptable invasion of customer confidentiality," Lord Inchyra, the BBA's secretary-general, said. "Banks cannot allow them a free hand to go fishing for signs of banky-panky."

Many of the expected capacity audience of 72,000 had already gathered outside the gates of Wembley Stadium yesterday afternoon, an inauspicious Friday the Thirteenth, when it was announced there would be no performance. Keith Richards was declared by his doctor unfit to play the demanding two-hour set for which fans had paid £22.50 a ticket to marvel at the longevity of one of the ancient monuments of British rock.

On Wednesday night the Richards finger, the third on his left hand, forced the band to abandon their planned appearance at Cardiff Arms Park, to the dismay of 30,000 fans. Since then the finger, cut on a guitar string during a tuning-up session, has not improved sufficiently to allow play to resume, and the infection has spread to the lower part of the hand.

Richardson spent the past three days with his left hand heavily bandaged, ruling out any possibility of his playing even the simplest riffs. He has been told that to use the hand now might damage his playing ability for ever, which in view of the Stones' apparent indestructibility he clearly does not wish to do.

If medical science does not work its magic, one disappointed Sicces aficionado will be the Princess of Wales, who plans to be among the audience at tonight's repeat concert, which it was hoped yesterday would still go ahead.



ALBANIANS aboard the Espresso Grecia, one of the four ferries which yesterday carried thousands of refugees from Durres, cheering their first sight of the Italian Adriatic port of Brindisi. The Albanians had been camped out in Tirana's Western embassies for two weeks, having stormed the gates and scaled the walls in their efforts to leave Europe's last Stalinist state. Some of yesterday's arrivals in Brindisi were taken by train to West Germany. Others flew back across the Adriatic to Athens, where one of them, Bardail Didi, said: "We have escaped from the wolf's mouth."

Mr Didi, who had been sought by the notorious Sigurimi security police, added that "if the Albanian regime becomes isolated from the international community, it will immediately collapse like a house of cards." The

refugees arriving at Brindisi were nearly all short and thin because of chronic malnutrition. Their hair and beards were long and their teeth generally rotten. The children looked anaemic but sun-tanned, the result, several said, of doing an obligatory day's farming each week.

Braced for revolution, page 8 First taste of freedom, page 28

England's defeat set TV record

By JOHN GOODBODY

NEARLY half the population watched the England v West Germany World Cup semi-final, the biggest audience yet recorded on British television. Official figures released yesterday show that 25.2 million people saw the match, which West Germany won in a penalty shoot-out, on Wednesday, July 4.

The BBC audience was 16.69 million, and ITV's 8.25 million. A BBC spokesman said that eight of the nine biggest audience figures for the World Cup were on the BBC. The BBC and ITV alternated the matches in the preliminary rounds but showed the same England matches in the later stages.

The next highest viewing figures were for England v Cameroon (23.7 million) and West Germany v Argentina (19.45 million).

Full report, page 29

Ulster talks deadlock over Dublin's role

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THERE were further signs yesterday that the government's initiative on Northern Ireland was in serious difficulty after seven hours of ministerial talks with the Irish government failed to break the deadlock on Dublin's involvement.

Speaking after his day-long meeting with Gerard Collins, the Irish foreign minister, at the Northern Ireland Office in London, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, indicated both sides were coming close to knowing once and for all if further progress could be made.

As if anticipating a complete collapse Mr Brooke said it was a "matter of relief" to him that he had always described the chances for inter-party talks as a possibility rather than a probability.

He added: "Inevitably, we are moving nearer to the point of knowing whether we have got something which is a fundamental problem for everybody."

Mr Brooke emphasised that all the parties to the initiative must be in agreement at every stage if the talks were to have any chance of success.

"Unless everybody is at ease with the basis with which we go into the talks, then I think there is the possibility of difficulties thereafter," he said.

Mr Collins, like his British counterpart, expressed alternating optimism and caution about the future. He described the differences which continue to divide them as a "log jam" which they had

Drivers' premiums up 16% as thefts rise

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

INSURANCE premiums for Britain's 20 million motorists will rise by 16 per cent this year as drivers pay the price of rising crime. Insurance companies are pressing manufacturers to improve the security of their vehicles as losses from thefts increase to more than £300 million a year.

The Association of British Insurers said yesterday that many manufacturers had a poor record of developing security systems. The organisation also criticised motorists who failed to lock their vehicles or to discourage thieves by installing alarms.

Insurers may decide to identify models with the worst security records to keep future premiums down. Mike Jones, chief executive of the insurers' association, said that the industry had no immediate plans for identifying poor performance on security, but did not rule out the idea.

In future, companies may hold prices down for motorists who buy cars with good security records or fit alarms or other devices to their vehicles. Mr Jones said: "Motorists may well have to pay higher insurance premiums for cars where the manufacturers do not do enough to improve car security. We will be stepping up our efforts to encourage motorists to take better care of their cars and we will be telling them the consequences in higher premiums if our message is ignored."

There were more than 335,000 theft claims last year.

Keith's sticky finger keeps Stones under wraps

By ALAN HAMILTON

A QUARTER-inch cut in the finger which fretted such classics as Little Red Rooster and Honky Tonk Women is rapidly becoming the most cataclysmic minor injury in the history of popular music. For the second time in a week the Rolling Stones were forced yesterday to postpone a concert because of the septic state of their lead guitarist's left hand.

Many of the expected capacity audience of 72,000 had already gathered outside the gates of Wembley Stadium yesterday afternoon, an inauspicious Friday the Thirteenth, when it was announced there would be no performance. Keith Richards was declared by his doctor unfit to play the demanding two-hour set for which fans had paid £22.50 a ticket to marvel at the longevity of one of the ancient monuments of British rock.

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Estimates of the cost of postponing such a concert vary wildly. The promoters safeguard themselves by not giving people their money back; the cut finger will be felt much more keenly by traders who make rich pickings at the gates.

There is, apparently, no question of a substitute, as Richards is too well-known. Mick Jagger is more fortunate. It has been disclosed that during performances his 47-year old voice receives the support of an offstage backing singer to disguise the inevitable range reduction accompanying advancing age.

My plan for Silverstone

Nigel Mansell explains how he will drive the Silverstone circuit as he races for his first grand prix win of the season: Page 32

Richardson: responding well to antibiotics



Saturday Review

The prime of Maggie Smith



Dame Maggie Smith arrived a little late on Broadway after an accident and ill health. Now she has taken New York by storm

The Battle of Britain

A British and a German pilot, who tried to kill each other 50 years ago, tell Brian James about the day they met in combat

Talent of our young artists

We are in danger of becoming obsessed by the past, and ignoring an emergent generation of artists. Richard Cork says

When the proms went pop



Sir Malcolm Sargent conducted the Proms with his carnation and charisma in full bloom. There were those who felt he encouraged a hoodlum tendency. Richard Morrison reports

WEEKEND LIVING

Making homes out of barns

Barns are part of the classic farmyard scenery. Is it right that they should be converted into homes? Yvonne Thomas conducts the debate: Page 17

Spinning in the wind

Weather vanes, popular in Victorian times, are back in vogue. Nicole Swengley reports from the rooftop: Page 19

SPORT

Sock it to them

This will be a familiar sight during the Open golf championship next week when Payne Stewart, wearing sponsored socks, attempts to win at St Andrews: Page 31

My plan for Silverstone

Nigel Mansell explains how he will drive the Silverstone circuit as he races for his first grand prix win of the season: Page 32

WEEKEND MONEY

Take account of credit

Holidaymakers using credit cards have been warned to keep a record of what they spend: Page 52

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Nicholas Ridley and the Spectator furore

Candidates line up for elephants' graveyard

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MARGARET Thatcher faces a conundrum in reshuffling her cabinet on the expected departure of Nicholas Ridley from the Department of Trade and Industry...

ence to the DTI and elevate in his place his minister of state, Alan Clark, a maverick right-winger who is no lover of Brussels and whose advancement would please the Conservative Bruges Groupers and anti EC-federalists.

She will be losing a close ally whose going will alarm the Tory right. Yet the three most obvious candidates lined up for promotion to the cabinet are William Waldegrave, who was considered closely for promotion when Michael Howard was given the employment department in January...

Some intriguing permutations were therefore being discussed among MPs yesterday. One suggestion was that Mrs Thatcher could switch Tom King from de-

Mr King has been a minister-of-all-work under Mrs Thatcher, serving in the cabinet at environment, transport, and Northern Ireland before his present post. He would hardly be surprised by another move. Mr Clark has been working closely with the prime minister on the possible shape of defence cuts constituting the "peace dividend".

After the experience with Mr Ridley, however, Mrs Thatcher is likely to think twice about elevating Mr Clark. A highly intelligent and individual politician who is one of her personal favourites, he is also accident-prone, having landed himself in race relations trouble, for example, with remarks about "Bongo Bongo land". His lack of



King: could be switched from defence ministry



Wakeham: back in prime minister's inner circle



Howard: inclines to the left of Tory median line

discretion has excluded him from the cabinet so far and it would be a surprise if Mrs Thatcher were to relent in what may well be a pre-election year.

The most talented of the younger right-wingers are Francis Maude (Foreign Office), Peter Lilley (Treasury) and Michael Portillo. Mr Portillo has only just been given the task of overseeing the revisions of the poll tax as local government minister,

however, and could scarcely be moved again so soon. Two other combinations suggested are that Michael Howard could be switched from employment to the DTI, a department he knows well after pushing through the Financial Services Act as a junior minister there. Mr Maude could then be given charge of employment.

The other notion canvassed yesterday was that John Wakeham, now back in the

prime minister's inner circle, could be switched from energy to the DTI, with Mr Lilley, like Mr Maude a member of the radical "No Turning Back" group, as his replacement. Either plan would leave Messrs Waldegrave, Mellor and Patten with considerable reason to feel hard done by.

Another intriguing suggestion yesterday was that any reshuffle consequent upon Mr Ridley's departure would be a

test of Cecil Parkinson's remaining credit with the prime minister. Tipped at the start of this parliament as a potential chancellor and known as a firm Thatcher loyalist, he has faced a series of setbacks lately and failed to secure a major post in her key January 1981 reshuffle. A select committee report criticised his role in electricity privatisation with unparalleled severity and his present transport department has been beset by problems.

Mr Parkinson had a brief spell once before as trade and industry secretary. After he had delivered election victory as party chairman in 1983 he held the position from June until October that year, when revelations about his private life forced him to resign from the government. A transfer back to the DTI at this stage would show that, under Mrs Thatcher, there was life in Mr Parkinson's career yet.

Although they sometimes go on to other jobs, the ministers who head the DTI do not seem to prosper long term under Mrs Thatcher. In

her first administration, when there were separate secretaries of state for trade and industry, Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph, was industry secretary from May 1979 to Sept 1981; Sir John Nott was trade secretary from May 1979 to January 1981; John Biffen was trade secretary from January 1981 to April 1982; and Patrick (now Lord) Jenkin was industry secretary from September 1981 to June 1983. Lord Cockfield was trade secretary from April 1982 to June 1983.

Cecil Parkinson was the first trade and industry secretary, from June 1983 to October 1983. Others between his tenure and Mr Ridley's have been: Norman Tebbit (Oct 1983 to Sept 1985); Sir Leon Brittan (Sept 1985 to Jan 1986); Paul Channon (Jan 1986 to June 1987); and Lord Young of Grafham (June 1987 to July 1989).

Only Mr Parkinson of that group remains in the cabinet.

Daniel Johnson, page 12 Letters, page 13

Regrets in shires but the message is clear

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

INFLUENTIAL local Conservatives from the shires and spires of the Tory heartland yesterday dismissed Nicholas Ridley as an upper-class bumbler at best and a dangerous liability at worst.

As attitudes to the trade secretary's indiscretions hardened few words were said on his behalf, although the least vindictive indicated that his withdrawal and apology should be accepted even though it was felt he should clear his desk and go.

John Warren, chairman of Eastleigh Conservative association in Hampshire, said: "His words have caused grave embarrassment to Great Britain and to the party. It's not for me to put the nockers on him, but I think it is right he should have a long hard look at his future. It is unfortunate he should have made his remarks at a time when the government is trying to knit closer ties with Europe. Nothing but harm has been done."

Alexandra Wallace, agent for Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP for Edinburgh West, said: "There's been among the Jewish community here reservations about the amalgamation of the two Germanies because that might be viewed as a possible threat. But if you boil down what Mr Ridley said then it's plain he should have been a bit more diplomatic. What you think and what you say must sometimes be two different things. To foster better relations with Europe you have to be a bit cautious."

It would be wrong to assume, however, that Mr Ridley's interview has left the Tories in the shires as agitated as their urban cousins at Westminster.

At Alton, in east Hampshire, where Michael Mates is the MP, Conservative association officials were too preoccupied with helping a delivery man find his way to this weekend's country fair to have time to comment.

Arthur Moss, agent to Michael Jopling, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale, and a former chief whip, said he was more likely to be flooded with complaints from constituents about low-flying aircraft than high-flying ministers.

He added: "One man has rung to dismiss Mr Ridley as a bumbler and another to say he has gone overboard. I just think ministers of the Crown are subject to the constraints of office. Having in mind the prime minister had some success at the recent summit meeting I think Mr Ridley has weakened the kudos accruing to her."

Sheila Blaby, agent to David Sumbler, MP for Bury South, said: "We are trying to make people feel European and Mr Ridley has made it more difficult for us. It's difficult to apologise for what someone else has done."

Frances Mowatt, agent to Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point and Father of the House, added: "All those I have spoken to say they fear Mr Ridley should go."

Political case strengthens for speeding ERM entry

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NICHOLAS Ridley's interview with The Spectator may, ironically, have helped to speed British entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system. A move he would dearly like to have scotched altogether.

His departure from office, fully expected by many Conservative MPs, will remove from the cabinet the staunchest opponent of ERM and none of the permutations suggested for a reshuffle involves bringing in an anti-marketeer.

Those on the fringe of the cabinet, such as William Waldegrave, David Mellor and John Patten, are all Europhiles. Only if the more junior Francis Maude were elevated would the Euro-sceptics take any comfort.

Some Conservative MPs were even suggesting yesterday that John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, would be able to make a political case for ERM entry earlier than had been planned, to help to undo the harm done to Britain's standing in Europe by his anti-German outburst.

Inside the Foreign Office and the Treasury, however, the view was that the timing of ERM entry would still be determined by the economic arguments, which had not changed as a result of Mr Ridley's interview, and by the need to position Britain for the discussions on economic and monetary union leading up to the inter-governmental conference in December.

While some eager Tory Europeans were suggesting

that the enforced departure of Mr Ridley might produce a net bonus for Britain by enhancing the country's European credentials, the Foreign Office was talking strictly in terms of damage limitation. Elsewhere in Whitehall, however, there was puzzlement at Mr Ridley's tactics. "Attacking Europe and ending up outside the cabinet in consequence is a pretty clear statement," one official said.

The Foreign Office was being careful not to be seen pushing for Mr Ridley's departure, not wanting to assist in the creation of a martyr to the anti-market cause. There was no doubt, however, of the departmental view that the sooner Mr Ridley went the simpler would be the task of damage limitation.

George Walden, the Tory MP for Buckingham and a former diplomat, said yesterday that it would be difficult to see how Mr Hurd could hope to achieve his diplomatic objectives so easily if Mr Ridley stayed on. "Mr Ridley has not stood up for Britain. He has put us in a humiliating position. We now have to crawl around apologising to everyone. You don't make the mark any weaker by spitting in the eye of the Germans." If Britain were seen by the Continent as indulging in "rancid anti-Germanism" less and less notice would be taken of British representatives, to the country's economic disadvantage, he said.

Peter Temple-Morris, vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench foreign affairs



Mr Ridley refusing to answer reporters' questions on his remarks about Germany as he ended his visit to Budapest yesterday

committee, said that Mr Ridley had to step down in the interests of the prime minister. "He is an honourable man, he will go."

Mr Ridley has created problems for others besides the Foreign Office. Ministers in all departments are now involved in regular meetings with their EC counterparts, some travelling to Brussels almost weekly. The difficulty they face is that Mr Ridley is known to be one of the prime minister's ideological soulmates.

The theme he developed in his recent speech to the Bruges Group of a wider European Community embracing the nations of Eastern Europe rather than a deeper inte-

gration of the existing 12, is one that has previously attracted Mrs Thatcher. The two are close on economic questions and colleagues have suspected the existence of a tacit understanding between them that he can make free speeches about matters on which her position restricts her.

While Tory MPs say that Mr Ridley's enforced resignation would help to underline the seriousness of British intentions in Europe, it will not altogether ease the party's internal problems on the subject. Mr Ridley's presence in the cabinet has acted as a safety valve for the anti-European diehards, who have believed that while he was

there their reservations were articulated at the top of the party. If he is replaced by a pro-EC voice they might feel the need to draw attention to their cause by noisier means.

While Mr Ridley is not considered to have the energy or the strength to become the leader of an anti-EC faction on the backbenches, his departure could provoke a new bout of internal argument on European questions. The real damage that Mr Ridley has done to the Conservatives is to have produced a gratuitous controversy just when the party's business managers believed they had calmed the party and slowed the political tempo.

Mrs Thatcher decided in December last year to accen-

tuate the positive in her relations with the other members of the EC and has been notably more placatory at the last three meetings of the European Council, one in Strasbourg and two in Dublin. At the Houston economic summit she did not side wholeheartedly with the US on free-trade questions but was careful to act as a link between the EC nations and the US.

Ironically too, she fought alongside Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, on environmental questions, pushing the Americans and others to acknowledge that action must be taken on global warming and climate change before full scientific evidence

was available. Mr Ridley might have been swimming against the current in another way too. While he was complaining about German domination of a unified European monetary system, Mrs Thatcher has said that one snag with moving from the present, Deutschmark-dominated system to full monetary union is that it may not be what its proponents suggest simply because it will be less dominated by Germany.

Instead of a discipline inspired by the deeply ingrained anti-inflationary German traditions, she has said, it will be more subject to politicians of other countries willing to turn a blind eye to a little inflation for temporary political ends.

Kaufman foresees Tories' fall

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DIFFERENCES over Europe would destroy the Conservative government, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said last night. The Nicholas Ridley affair was the latest evidence of the malignancy gnawing at the heart of the government.

Speaking in Stockport, Mr Kaufman said it had been the European issue that led Michael Heseltine to walk out of the cabinet, that forced Sir Leon Brittan to resign, that led Margaret Thatcher to dismiss Sir Geoffrey Howe as foreign secretary, that forced Nigel Lawson out of the cabinet, and that brought about the Ridley crisis.

Mr Kaufman said the cabinet split over Europe meant that Britain could not pursue a balanced economic or fiscal policy; it had led to a wildly fluctuating pound and to record

interest rates. "The split in the cabinet over Europe means that the United Kingdom presence at European summit meetings is negative and despised by our European partners, who are deprived of the positive contribution a united British cabinet could make. The Ridley outburst became a crisis for the government because it shows how the split over Europe is preventing the foreign secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer being taken seriously in community policy-making."

"When Ridley insulted the Germans, the French and the Irish he was voicing the same prejudice as the prime minister did in her diet of Brussels Euro-elections posters. Ridley was the ventriloquist's dummy." If you watched the prime minister carefully, it was her lips making the insults, he said.

Elsewhere in the constituency of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, in rural Gloucestershire, a very distinctive breed of Tory was revelling in the fuss over a plain-speaking man having echoed their own thoughts.

"Nothing wrong with the man," said Toby Harrison, aged 58, who has sold farm machinery since leaving the army. "It was not so long ago since we were fighting the war. Some people have short memories and like to rush on with things too much."

His views were echoed by many. The rich farming countryside with its beautiful sandstone villages is home to many retired people and a significant number of those

Serenity of Cotswolds disturbed by uproar

By LIN JENKINS

THE uproar over Nicholas Ridley's remarks had the party traditionalists jamming the telephone lines at his constituency headquarters yesterday. Pauline Higgs barely had time to sip her cup of coffee as she fielded a succession of calls from Cornwall to the Borders all expressing support for his views and applauding his honesty.

"Everyone from the Lords to the man in the street has been ringing and I can honestly say not one voice is in dissent. They admire his guts in saying it, but some are sorry he made the retraction," she said. She was the only staff member in the office in Cheltenham as the constituency agent is taking a timely holiday.

Normally Mrs Higgs spends Friday sorting material for Mr Ridley's Saturday morning

surgery, but this week there would be none as "he cancelled it because of his travels".

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His views were echoed by many. The rich farming countryside with its beautiful sandstone villages is home to many retired people and a significant number of those

served in the forces. In the tranquil village of Naunton, in the Cotswolds, where the old rectory provides the perfect retreat from the hothouse atmosphere of cabinet office, Mr Ridley's neighbours were less tolerant of the indiscretion.

Such an insular community has a long memory and Mr Ridley is highly unpopular. A refusal to open the village fête, or even give a donation, some five years ago is to them a recent injury. So too is opposition to a few new homes.

Some even blame him for the closure of the local school, which shut after Mr Ridley's children went on to private secondary schools. "Nobody here likes him," said Jane Davies. "The elderly here have always been staunch Conservative supporters, like my parents, who are in their

seventies, but I know they for one would vote anything now to try and get him out."

Ironically, those whose objections to the man are most firmly held share many of his views on Europe. "It is funny that so many people in the village actually support what he said, but they really have had enough of his style," she said.

Cathy Turton, aged 45, a teacher and an active member of the village's thriving committees, believed that another decade might prove Mr Ridley right.

"But he really ought to be more diplomatic after all, that is the skill of the politician. We're quite frankly surprised he has lasted this long, he does like to put his foot in it."

In them, the issue is not really Mr Ridley's performance on the international

political stage, but that his insensitivity shown to them over the years should have been masked from those outside the village for so long. They are highly critical of his refusal to be involved in the village with a population of just over 300.

"We are a living village. Just because it is all roses around the door, Cotswold, Stone and drystone walls doesn't mean it is a film set. We are small and need every one here to play their part and make an effort and Mr Ridley has never done that," Mrs Turton said.

Nonetheless, the setting is a perfect one in which to escape the cacophony of London, and a short distance away is the Severn where Mr Ridley can enjoy the perfect solitude of his favourite hobby; salmon fishing.

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And the band played Deutschland Uber Alles

By DANIEL TREISMAN

MARGARET Thatcher spent yesterday afternoon at a fair, and the only thing that was "intemperate" as she toured the marquee of Finchley Carnival was the blazing sun.

The prime minister was the model of discretion, ignoring repeated questions from journalists about the future of Nicholas Ridley as she mingled with her constituents, watching a display of Scottish dancing and buying an umbrella, two tea towels, and raffle tickets.

She greeted mothers outside the baby show tent and a short ride in a pony cart took her to the main podium, where she watched Scottish pipers perform and chatted to the

mayor of Barnet, Roy Schutz. A note of mischievous comedy broke through when a circus theatre band, mindful of Mr Ridley's comments, played Deutschland Uber Alles on violin and trombone.

Mrs Thatcher toured the stalls with unwavering froideur, trailed by an unheeded array of journalists as the temperature rose above 80°.

Her constituents, gathered in Victoria Park, were more ready to express a colourful mix of views about Mr Ridley's outspoken interview. Eileen McAllister, a Thatcher supporter manning the National Trust stall, said: "He ought to be more tactful. It's a pity, because he's got great potential.

Why mess it up like that?" Arthur Collet, waiting for the flying owl display, thought Mr Ridley should resign. "I reckon he should get his cards. It's either him or her."

Stephen Cooper, at the amateur dramatics and art stall, thought his views struck a popular chord. "A lot of people have been waiting for someone to say something like that for a very long time. But it's an amazing mistake for a cabinet minister. If I was prime minister, I would regard the man as being a dangerous idiot."

Maurice Clare, a long time Conservative voter who has lived in Finchley 54 years and served there as an air raid precaution officer during the war,

said Mr Ridley was right in worry about Bonn's ambitions in Europe. "I'll sooner trust him than the Germans any day. If you read continental history, if Germany gets her chance they'll have another go. We don't want a third world war, do we? Two have been enough in my lifetime. For all we know Mrs Thatcher thinks the same as him but doesn't voice it."

The Falconry exhibit was finishing as Mrs Thatcher's black Daimler, a helium balloon packed safely in the boot, pulled away with the prime minister, who left as sphinx-like as she had arrived, one and three-quarter hours earlier.

مركز الامم المتحدة

German with prejudice European by prejud

The Ridley furore

German press reacts with outrage over prejudices and fears

FROM GIRARD STEICHEN IN BONN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE West German press yesterday reacted with universal outrage to Nicholas Ridley's comments about Germany's alleged designs for an economic takeover of Europe.

The mass circulation *Bild* had a front page banner headline saying: "Maggie's Minister Compares Kohl to Hitler - What a Friend!"

Süddeutsche Zeitung, of Munich, said that Margaret Thatcher would be forced to dismiss the minister. "Mr Ridley's comments cannot be simply dismissed as the extreme views of a 'little Englishman'.

The conservative *Die Welt* wondered how Mr Ridley could face his European counterparts after the remarks. "With what face - he has already lost his own - will Mr Ridley appear at the bargaining table with politicians in Bonn after remarks such as 'German swindle' and outrages about a German plot to take over all of Europe?"

The newspaper said that outraged voices were not enough. "The tone makes the

music and there is a method to his outburst. He has given new meaning to the British saying 'The wogs begin in Calais'."

General-Anzeiger, of Bonn, noted: "Mr Ridley's word will in future have much less value, if it ever carried weight. His outburst and macabre choice of words clearly exposed the raw nerve in London's Downing Street."

The liberal *Frankfurter Rundschau* wrote that the remarks could not be simply dismissed as isolated rantings. "The feelings, the fears and the prejudices that came out of the minister are feelings, fears and prejudices that are shared by many of his countrymen. The island has yet to fully come to terms with the impending enlargement of the federal republic, the growing German self-assurance and the flag waving in Berlin. This will take time."

The West Berlin tabloid *BZ* asked: "Was it whisky or was it ale? Or was Her Majesty's minister for industry and trade simply loaded? But even if he was drunk, is that an excuse? Many believe that drunks tell the truth. On a more serious note: the anti-German statements by a minister of Thatcher's cabinet are scandalous ... To compare the democratic Germany with that of Hitler is deeply, deeply unfair. To say Europe is a German trophy is either sheer ill-will or simply ignorance."

In East Germany, the Communist daily *Neues Deutschland* headlined its account with "London Minister's

tongue is loosely fixed". East German radio commented that Mr Ridley had obviously been indulging in the long-standing privilege of British parliamentarians - "long liquid lunches" - and wondered whether the outburst could be traced back to the defeat of England by Germany in the World Cup.

Hans-Jürgen Möhring, deputy editor of the country's foreign affairs journal *Horizont* and a leading commentator on East German-British relations, said that he understood Mr Ridley's fears. "A united Germany will inevitably take on a very powerful role in Europe and its potential is still unpredictable," he said. "It is not unreasonable to fear the emergence of German chauvinism and radicalism from both the right and the left."

In Belgium, the press revelled in Europe's favourite caricature of the haughty Englishman but also detected more serious signs of British historical isolationism towards Europe. *La Libre Belgique* accused Mr Ridley of "dragging Bonn, Paris and Brussels through the mud".

Le Soir called him "a hardened nationalist and anti-European", caricaturing him as "a gentleman-farmer from the shires, for whom Europe seems as distant as New Zealand". His closeness to Mrs Thatcher was a source of serious concern, however.

The authoritative Flemish daily *De Standaard* said Mr Ridley's remarks were "an annoying traffic accident on the road to Europe". The minister belonged to a "picture-book from the Victorian era", but his minority views had showed how a concern for sovereignty could find a dangerous expression in anti-German emotion.

In The Netherlands the press was disturbed by Mr Ridley's ideological proximity to the prime minister. *De Volkskrant*, of the centre-left, said it believed that "perhaps this all had to be said in the open at some point, and maybe it is what Mrs Thatcher was thinking herself."

In Spain, *El País* said the remarks highlighted above all deep divisions in the cabinet over European policy. These could only undermine the more conciliatory efforts towards the European question of his colleagues Douglas Hurd and John Major. More disturbingly, Mr Ridley's outburst reflected "the profound mistrust - a mixture of hatred, envy and fear - that the British harbour towards the Germans".

In Italy, papers did not take the remarks as serious expressions of the British government's position, but some suggested that they reflected the repressed common fears of certain members of the Conservative party. The authoritative Turin daily *La Stampa* wrote that "the anti-European fringe within the British government and the financial and political establishment has come out into the open with a mad attack by the minister of industry". It points out that "Ridley among the ministers, is the one ideologically closest to the premier."

The Milan daily *Corriere Della Sera*, under a headline reading "This Germany reminds me of Hitler", described Mr Ridley's interview as "astounding and brutally frank, in total contempt of the most elementary diplomacy".

In France, *Le Monde* said the minister's outburst simply demonstrated that "it is possible to be an aristocrat without ever becoming a gentleman", and it wondered whether Mrs Thatcher secretly shared the "fears and prejudices" expressed by her trusted collaborator.



Face of controversy: the cover of the magazine that launched a storm of European anger and protest

Anglo German group keeps its counsel

By JOHN YOUNG

SIR Frank Roberts, president of the Anglo German Association and a former British ambassador in Bonn, yesterday described Mr Ridley's remarks as most regrettable, but thought it unlikely that the association would want to make any further comment.

"We have not had any demands from our members to make a statement," he said. "We don't sit in judgment. We are satisfied that the prime minister has said everything that needs to be said in disowning Mr Ridley's views, and Mr Ridley himself has withdrawn his remarks."

"So far as I know, the foreign secretary has indicated that there is nothing more to be said."

"If the Prime Minister had said that she entirely agreed with everything that Mr Ridley said, it would of course have been quite a different

matter," Sir Frank said. "We may have lots of different views within the association, but I don't think it would be appropriate to air them."

The Mayor of Tewkesbury, a part of Mr Ridley's constituency in Gloucestershire, travelled to Germany yesterday on a prearranged visit to Tewkesbury's twin town of Miesbach in Bavaria.

The trip by Brenda Evans and five other people from the area was organised by Tewkesbury's Twinning Association whose vice-chairman, John Monaghan, criticised Mr Ridley's remarks. "He has done untold damage and must now resign," he said.

Mr Monaghan is chairman of the Conservative association in Twynning, near Tewkesbury, and is also managing director of the British division of a German company based in the town.

European Community united by prejudice and xenophobia

FROM PETER GULFORD, BRUSSELS

ALTHOUGH Britain now stands in the dock accused of racism even at ministerial level, as a result of Nicholas Ridley's remarks, a European Community survey shows that the British are by no means the most xenophobic people in Europe.

The West Germans and the Belgians have the greatest difficulties living with the presence of foreigners, according to an EC census *Racism, xenophobia and intolerance*, published last November.

Xenophobia in Belgium and West Germany is levelled primarily at other Europeans. The British, the Danes, the French and the Dutch however think more of non-Europeans, notably immigrants from former colonies. No single country is exonerated by the findings of the

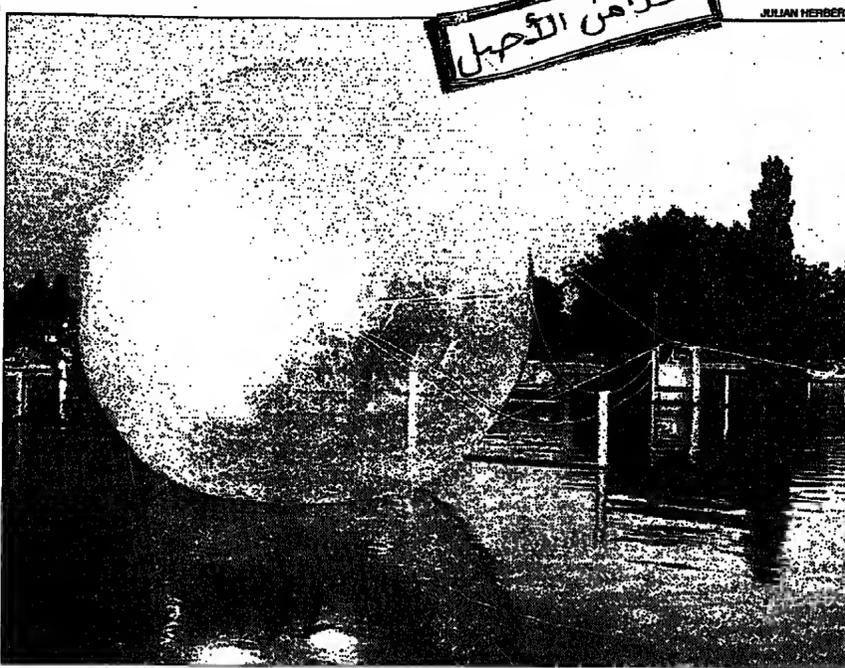
report, which concludes that "one European in three believes there are too many people of another nationality or race in his country". Dislike of the presence of foreigners is directly linked to their sense of national pride, the survey says. Those who do not meet foreigners in their jobs are just as intolerant towards them as those who do. One in three EC citizens have regular contact with foreigners.

A quarter of all Britons surveyed believe that foreign children lower the standards of education and 30 per cent of West Germans share the same views, as do 59 per cent of Spaniards. Some 26 per cent of Britons believe foreigners exploit social security benefits. 14 per cent are baffled by their customs, 29 per cent believe they boost unemploy-

ment and 41 per cent see them as a cause of delinquency. On marriage 43 per cent of the British population believe a liaison with a foreigner will fail, 42 per cent are wary of them as neighbours and 27 per cent dislike their effect on property prices.

The figures are higher in every case for Spain, Portugal, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, while the percentages are equal or greater in all cases but one for West Germany, France and Ireland. Denmark is the only one with a consistently cleaner record.

While one in two Europeans believe foreigners are a positive influence in their country, most Britons believe their rights should be maintained, not expanded. Italy, however, is the only EC state which favours greater rights.



A little light music floats over the water

SIMON Desorgher playing his flute inside a 25ft transparent plastic sphere suspended above the Thames at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. His music is part of the town's festival of arts and music, which ends tonight.

the water. Inside it Mr Desorgher performs "Music of the Spheres" which is transmitted to the river bank audience by 10 loudspeakers. He is backed up by lasers, smoke machines and underwater lights.

The sphere, about the size of a small house, was made by two artists, Peter Jones and Lynne Dickens, and is suspended on cables 12ft above

The festival includes a floating orchestra and wandering minstrels. The audience joins in the atmosphere by wearing straw boaters and ballgowns.



Genetic breakthrough

Scientists find clue to nervous disease

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

RESEARCHERS have identified the gene believed to be responsible for a form of neurofibromatosis, an incurable disease of the central nervous system which affects about 20,000 people in Britain.

The discovery, which raises hopes of diagnostic tests and new treatments, was described yesterday as the most important advance for years in the control of the disorder. The findings about the condition, also known as NFI and Von Recklinghausen's disease, were published in two journals yesterday.

American scientists led by Francis Collins, professor of internal medicine and human genetics at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Michigan University, reported in the *Science* journal that children of parents with the defective gene stand a 50 per cent chance of developing the disease.

The symptoms range from mild skin blemishes to tumours which can become malignant. The researchers found that almost half the NFI cases are due to a new genetic mutation which occurs at about the time of conception.

Another team, led by Professor Raymond White of Utah University, has also identified the gene and reported its findings in the *Cell* journal.

The Collins group worked with scientists in Toronto last year to identify the cystic fibrosis gene. They used the same approach, called reverse genetics or positional cloning.

The Neurofibromatosis Association, a British charity which raises funds for re-

search, said yesterday that the discovery was of huge importance. John Blackwell, the association's general secretary said: "It opens the way to finding a way to treat the disease itself rather than the symptoms."

Dr Alison Colley, a research registrar at the neurofibromatosis clinic at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, said: "The disease has a baffling variety of symptoms. The gene research should tell us why some people are more severely affected than others, and may help us to detect the more serious problems at an earlier stage, allowing us to offer better treatment."

Dr Peter Law and colleagues report in *The Lancet* today that the technique offers a safe and effective way of alleviating the condition, which is carried by women but affects only males.

Former pit chief sues Scargill

THE former chief executive of the National Union of Mineworkers has been given leave in an Irish court to sue Arthur Scargill and *The Sunday Times* for libel (Ray Clancy writes).

Roger Windsor disclosed details of the union's financial affairs during the 1984-85 miners' strike, which led to allegations that money was received from Libya. In an affidavit read by Paul Carney, his lawyer, Mr Windsor said Mr Scargill had set about an attempt to discredit him "by every means at his disposal". The miners' leader had made allegations of fraud, "which are false and highly defamatory", that had been published by several newspapers.

Mr Windsor is also suing *The Sunday Times* over an article published last year with the headline "Scargill man in fraud riddle". He is bringing the proceedings in Ireland because "the solicitor I have most confidence in" practises there.

Mr Scargill said last night he had not yet received notice of any legal proceedings.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lawson and Ridley

"At the end of the first day's transcripts I looked and saw nothing of any interest. On the second day I saw the German stuff and I was flabbergasted..." Dominic Lawson talking of his now-notorious interview with Nicholas Ridley. In tomorrow's Sunday Times Lawson is the interviewee as he tells Valerie Grove the story behind the Cabinet minister's candid views which shocked Europe.



Madonna

"Madonna symbolises a revolution in feminist thought..." as the raunchy star brings her Blonde Ambition show to London. The Sunday Times finds leading feminists surprisingly championing her cause.

Nick Faldo

Also tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine, a profile of Nick Faldo in the week he attempts to regain his Open golf title - plus an Open '90 special supplement with the Sports section.

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Examiner is dismissed for wrong grades

By TOM GILES

A GCSE examiner has been dismissed after his board admitted that ten pupils from a West Country school had been wrongly downgraded in their examinations, it was disclosed yesterday.

The children, from Churchill School in Avon, received poorer results than expected in GCSE business studies papers last June. Although the school asked the Southern Examining Group to investigate in September, the pupils' grades remained unchanged for nine months because of examiners' delays.

A report issued by the group last December at the school's request said there was no need to re-mark the business studies papers of 21 pupils. The group had already improved the grades of two candidates at Churchill after parents made an independent request for their papers to be re-marked.

According to Richard Pallant, the school's headmaster, the group agreed several weeks later to re-mark the 21 examination papers. Despite Mr Pallant's repeated requests for information, the examiners admitted their mistake only in May, when

another eight pupils had their results upgraded. One pupil received a good pass mark after originally being failed.

Mr Pallant said yesterday that he was delighted by the new awards but angry at the attitude of the group. "I am disturbed by how long the examining board took to admit their error. The credibility of these boards is crucial and this sort of affair only serves to undermine it."

"The pupils would have been unable to qualify for courses they wanted and it was fortunate that none has suffered any lasting damage to their career."

Last night, the examining group, based at Guildford, said an apology had been made to the school for the delay. "The original marker of the exams will not be working for us again. The process of re-marking did take far longer than we would have hoped, but the school could have asked for a re-mark in the first place rather than a report."

It said that only 2,800 out of a million GCSE candidates examined by the group last year had requested a re-mark. Of those, 320 had been upgraded.



INVESTIGATORS and fire brigade officers inspect the remains of a helicopter which crashed near Stanley, Co Durham, yesterday, killing the head of Whelan Construction and his wife.

Pat and Margaret Whelan, were travelling in an aircraft piloted by Mr Whelan, aged 49, when the tragedy happened (Ronald Faux writes). Mr Whelan and his wife, aged 40, had just taken off from a field near a restaurant and equestrian complex when the

helicopter hit a power cable and crashed in a ball of fire. A Civil Aviation Authority team yesterday began an investigation.

Witnesses said the rear rotor of the Bell Jet Ranger helicopter clipped a 20,000 volt power cable 30ft above the ground. The cable snapped and broke off the tailfin of the aircraft, which spiralled into a field and exploded.

Superintendent Ned Lawson, of Durham police, said Phil Moyser, a

tractor driver, was working in a field as the helicopter took off. "The occupants of the helicopter were acquainted with the tractor driver and we think that might have had something to do with the accident. Their attention might have been distracted."

Whelan Construction, of Newcastle upon Tyne, had a turnover of £17.6 million up to last December. The company operates on sites throughout the north.

Lord lieutenant's gamekeeper fined £600 for using pesticide

By CRAIG SETON

A GAMEKEEPER on the estate of the Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester was fined £600 yesterday after a red kite, one of Britain's rarest birds of prey, was poisoned by a banned pesticide.

The red kite was one of 11 released last year in a joint effort by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council to reintroduce the bird into areas where it was once common.

The bird, fitted with a radio transmitter, was found dead on the Gately Park estate, near Leominster, Hereford and Worcester, of Captain Thomas Dunne, the lord lieutenant. It had died from poisoning by Endrin, banned in 1986.

John Noble, aged 41, the gamekeeper, pleaded guilty at Hereford Magistrates' Court two weeks ago to storing Endrin and using it in a bait, a dead pheasant, which resulted in the death of the red kite and a champion gun dog.

Four other gamekeepers and a farmer were fined at the time a total of £8,000 for offences involving the storage and use of the pesticide. Noble's case was adjourned to yesterday, when the second charge was amended to using Endrin. David Matthews, for

the defence, said Noble did not exclude the possibility that the Endrin had killed the red kite and gun dog, but it had not been proved to "criminal standards".

He said Noble was a beginner with only two years' gamekeeping experience after 22 years in the Army and he had not realized the toxicity of the chemical or that it was banned. The court had heard that Endrin had been used to kill foxes that attacked young pheasants being reared for shooting.

Mr Matthews said Noble had disagreement with some people in the course of his duties and believed that an attempt may have been made to sabotage his pheasant shoots by placing poisoned baits. Five gun dogs had been poisoned and one, a Labrador named Rosie, which was judged the Midlands top retriever in 1988, had died.

Chris Harrison, for the prosecution, said Noble admitted to police that he used Endrin after 54 pheasants were killed by a fox and that he thought the chemical was an essential part of gamekeeping. Noble was fined £250 for storing Endrin and £350 for using it and ordered to pay £314 costs.

Leading article, page 13

Traps and poison are the old image

BRITAIN'S gamekeepers fear that the conviction of five of their number for using a banned pesticide to kill predators will revive the outdated image that they are employed solely to protect game for shooting by rich landowners (Craig Seton writes).

Alan Jones, an investigations officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said after the Hereford convictions that some gamekeepers were still using the illegal techniques of 150 years ago, including shooting, trapping and poisons.

However Ian Grindy, head gamekeeper of a Lancashire estate, who is employed by a syndicate that shoots pheasants, partridge and wildfowl, said yesterday that the notion of the ceaseless war of gamekeepers against traditional predators like the fox and birds of prey was dying out as fast as its former practitioners.

Mr Grindy, aged 40, learns his craft on a Suffolk estate where his tutor, a traditional gamekeeper, might well have been prepared to use pole traps to catch owls and gin traps to prevent foxes attacking the landlord's pheasants.

He believes that most gamekeepers today shun illegal methods of destroying predators and should be regarded as modern conservationists, more likely to be equipped with a City and Guilds certificate than ancient country lore.

"Nowadays we are responsible for forestry and woodland, which encourage wildlife and the methods of rearing pheasants for shooting are different," Mr Grindy said. "Vermin control is only important at critical times of the year. We have a live and let

live policy. We only kill when an animal is literally threatening our living. We use a high-velocity rifle to kill foxes."

He believed it was time the public realised the conservation work of gamekeepers, particularly against badger baiters, egg thieves and poachers.

"My boss has to pay for this work. I took over here nine years ago and in the first three years I had my nose broken twice, four or five broken ribs and threatening phone calls. These people, who come out of the cities, with a tailor's dummy at the end of my drive with a knife in it and a warning that that was what would happen to me if I did not stop going out at night to catch them. It was found by my children on their way to school," Mr Grindy said.

The Game Conservancy has 23,000 members, including about 2,500 gamekeepers, about half Britain's number. Charles Nodder, of the conservancy, said most gamekeepers worked for shooting syndicates. There were very few private shoots now.

He said: "All birds of prey are protected. The image of gamekeepers killing birds of prey is one we can well do without. There is nothing like the degree of control of predators that there was in the early part of this century."

Last year the Game Conservancy had been instrumental in an agreement under which employers had to ensure that every employee strictly observed the law, Mr Nodder said. A gamekeeper who used illegal methods could expect to be sacked.

Feather report, page 18

Peace plan for Nato's energies

By RAY CLANCY

THE Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday that weapons of war, no longer needed because of widespread disarmament, should be converted for use in time of great disasters.

Dr Robert Runcie told a one-day conference in London on disaster relief that Nato's great energies and engines of defence were uniquely able to perform acts for the goodwill of mankind and of the environment.

"What is to happen in all these military trucks, radars, reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters, recovery vehicles and their drivers?" he asked. "Should we scrap them or can some be switched to combat the common enemies of mankind, starting with disasters and their prevention but perhaps also the wider range of environmental threats to the survival of our planet?"

Dr Runcie criticised the lack of international co-ordination for disaster relief in emergencies such as floods and earthquakes and called for joint action across the world. "It is something we can achieve if we really want to and are willing to start thinking about how to do it," he said.

Last night the Red Cross, the main body responsible for disaster relief, welcomed the idea of more co-ordination.

Return to rates sealed by Labour

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

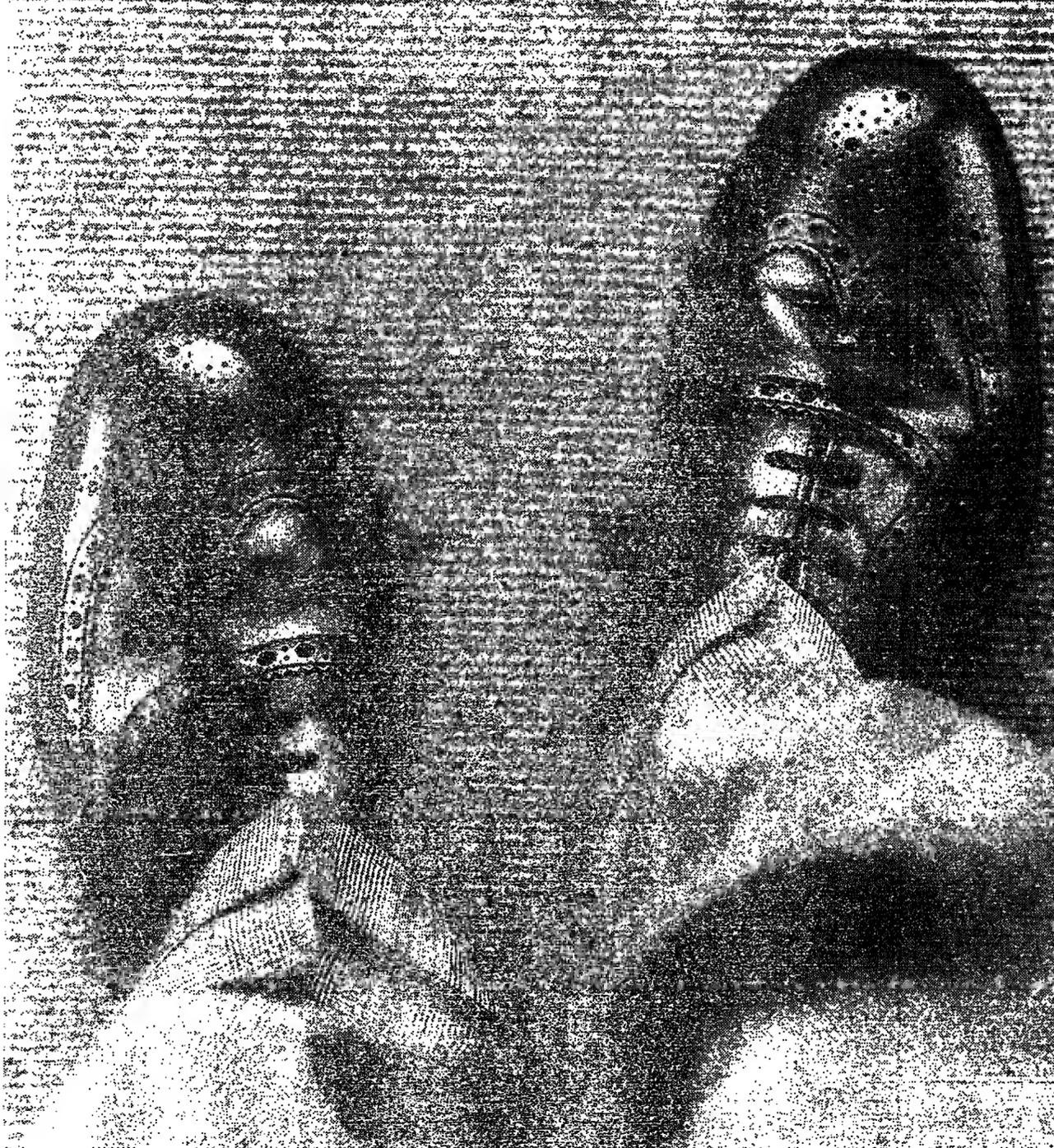
LABOUR'S return to the rating system has been sealed by the decision of party leaders to reintroduce generous rate rebates as the means of reflecting people's ability to pay.

Labour's economic sub-committee has abandoned proposals to link the party's new property tax to the income tax system, after it was told that it would take five years to engineer. Labour is preparing to unveil a modernised version of the rating system as its alternative to the poll tax. Rateable values will be used as the basis for calculating liability to the new tax rather than capital values.

The leadership is also considering a plan to promise a royal commission on local government structure and financing after a general election victory. It would examine proposals for regional assemblies in England.

The community charge would be quickly swept away by an incoming Labour government and replaced with the revised version of the rates.

Bryan Gould, the Opposition's chief environment spokesman, will probably unveil his scheme a few days after Chris Patten, the environment secretary, announces the outcome of the cabinet review of the poll tax next Thursday.



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مكتبات الأصيل

Holiday gloom for late bookers as firms are sold out

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TOUR operators who reduced the number of package holidays on sale this summer by about 25 per cent may have miscalculated, leaving more than a quarter of a million people with nowhere to go and no aircraft available to get them there.

Within the past two weeks a sudden and unexpected surge in bookings, which appears to have coincided with renewed confidence in Britain's economic future, the strengthening pound and even England's comparative success in the World Cup, has virtually cleared travel agents' shelves of remaining holidays between now and the autumn.

Those tour operators who are attempting to meet the demand by chartering additional flights are being turned down by the airlines who were forced months ago to lease 20 jets to other parts of the world not so badly affected by the early slump in holidays. Not that the tour companies appear to be worried about the possible shortage. For it means those holidays which are left will be sold at the full rate compared with the giveaway prices late bookers could obtain last year when tour operators arranged far too many and scrambled at the last minute to off-load them almost at any price.

Luna Poly first rang the alarm bells after a country-wide survey carried out at the end of last month. It disclosed that an anticipated 280,000 potential late booking holiday-makers could face disappointment. The independent survey showed that 1.68 million holiday-makers in-

tended to book late but there were only 1.4 million holidays left for sale - and since then the numbers of people seeking holidays have increased.

"It really took off on Thursday of last week," Roger Heape, managing director of Intasun, said. "Our bookings last week were 30 per cent higher than at the same time last year and yet our availability was 25 per cent less. We are, therefore, heading for a situation where a lot of people are not going to be able to get away in the near future."

Thomson Holidays reported almost the same pattern. "If anyone wants to go on holiday this August they are not going to get their first choice and may be completely disappointed," a spokesman said. "We had to decide last September how many holidays we would offer this summer and reduced the number from 2.4 million to two million. It appeared that this would be almost exactly right until last week when

there was a sudden rush.

"Everyone seems to have decided at exactly the same time that there is now a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel and with the strengthening pound making foreign holidays generally cheaper they chose to book."

The Association of British Travel Agents said that although there will be many empty beds in Spain, especially because the total number of holidays on sale has dropped, there will be no aircraft available to take potential holiday-makers to them and no crews to man them even if they could be brought back in time.

Even the expensive long-haul holidays which traditionally do not sell well in the height of summer have taken off.

Whether the last few days of real summer and the continuing high inflation rate dulls the appetite for foreign holidays remains to be seen.



Snap happy: Some of the 1,000 children in the Caribbean musical *Anansi* demonstrate photo-taking abilities at rehearsals. The children come from 47 schools and are under the direction of the theatre company Chicken Shed. The show will be performed at the Albert Hall tonight.

Birmingham airport takes off as Britain's travel hub

THOUSANDS of air travellers are forsaking congested Heathrow and Gatwick and heading for Birmingham, which is rapidly developing into Britain's travel hub (Harvey Elliott writes).

As plans to build a high-speed rail link from Paddington to Heathrow become bogged down in the parliamentary timetable, business and charter travellers are

heading to the Midlands by road and rail and providing the nine local authorities who own Birmingham airport with windfall profits from the fastest growing main airport in the country.

The airport, which is spending £100 million on additional facilities to cope with the increased demand, is confident of further expansion after a recent agreement giving

additional rights to British and to American airlines to operate transatlantic services.

Last year the number of passengers using Birmingham grew by 19 per cent, in spite of a marked drop in charter traffic as airlines throughout Europe flocked to take advantage of the surge in demand.

The sudden popularity of Birmingham as a centre from which to reach most European

cities has provided a boost to the local airline, Birmingham European Airways. The number of passengers on its flights has risen from 50,000 in 1988 to an anticipated 250,000 this year, enabling it to open several new routes including one to Stockholm, which will be started in September. The airline is 40 per cent owned by British Airways, 40 per cent by Maersk, a Danish company,

and 20 per cent by private investors.

"Birmingham is geographically the centre of England, the coming together of all the motorways and railway lines," Jørn Eriksen, BEA managing director, said. "We have a huge eight million catchment area stretching from Luton in the southeast to Lincoln and Humberston, west to the Welsh border and north to Telford and Stoke."

British Airways is concentrating on developing a £60 million "Eurohub" terminal at Birmingham, which is due to open in a year. It believes that almost two million passengers will be using its services from Birmingham within the next few years.

Edward Taylor, head of marketing at the airport, said: "With the success of the rapid development of commerce and industry in the region and the growth of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham has suddenly been recognised as a natural hub for business. Holidaymakers from a vast area of Britain find it far more convenient to travel to us than to any of the existing airports in the southeast."

Turnover last year at the airport was £36 million compared with £29.5 million in the previous financial year, providing £7.8 million of prof-

its to the local authorities compared with £4.5 million the previous year.

The rapid growth of Birmingham is proving particularly galling to BAA, which is becoming increasingly frustrated at the slow progress of its own plans to improve road and rail access to Heathrow.

A report to be published by the Civil Aviation Authority next week is likely to argue for the urgent development of a new runway in the southeast to cope with a predicted doubling of air traffic within the next 10 years. The government is unlikely to want to tackle the problem before the next general election, adding still further to Birmingham's attraction in the run-up to the single European market in 1992.

● Airports and airlines upset their passengers more for failing to give information about the cause of delays than do the delays themselves, according to a survey. Tony Farrell, UK passenger sales manager for North Sea Ferries, who commissioned the survey from Gallup, said: "Most holidaymakers expect to be delayed but they are not kept informed. A staggering 74 per cent complained about not being given enough information when delayed, while 70 per cent were upset by the delay itself."

Trial date for IRA suspects

Two suspected IRA members will be put on trial in Disteldorf on August 16 in connection with attacks against British forces in West Germany, officials said yesterday (Girard Steichen writes).

Terence Gerard McGeough and Gerard Thomas Hanratty will face charges of attempted murder after ten soldiers were injured in a bomb attack at a British army barracks in Duisburg in 1988. McGeough will also be charged in connection with an attack on a Nato base in Mönchengladbach in 1987.

Rest for Prince

The Prince of Wales has cancelled all his engagements next week on medical advice. He is recuperating at home in Gloucestershire, after breaking his arm in a polo match two weeks ago.

Mountain death

Mark Bolton, of Nottingham, died in an mountain-climbing accident in the Mont Blanc region of France on Thursday. Police say falling rocks hit him on the head.

Drugs arrests

Hertfordshire police have charged four people with drugs and public order offences after various drugs were seized at a pub and a wine bar in Watford on Thursday night.

Flood protection

A £16 million scheme to raise the flood banks has started to protect 1,000 homes and 30,000 acres of rich, farming land in the Cambridgeshire and west Norfolk fens.

Arson charges

Jane Salvesson, aged 36, of west Kensington, London, has been remanded in custody charged with arson after a fire at the home of her former boyfriend, Michael Stevens, in June.

Israel enquiry

Two British MPs, Emma Nicholson and Kate Hoey, are going to Israel this weekend to investigate charges that the Israeli army is ill-treating Palestinian children on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Oldest graduate

Dorothy Sidebottom, aged 79, of Chesdale, Cheshire, has become the oldest graduate of Manchester University. She has won a degree in theology.

Letters, page 13

Training and jobs urged for prisoners

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

FIRMS could provide more training and employment for prisoners to benefit themselves and the community, according to a report to be published next week. Many inmates re-offend when they are set free because of their frustration at not working, it says.

In a letter published in *The Times* today, five peers, including Lord Ezra, former chairman of the Coal Board, and Lord Murray of Epping Forest, former TUC general secretary, strongly criticise the level of idleness among prisoners. They also call for greater private sector involvement, saying that Britain can no longer afford the costs of "unproductive imprisonment and rising crime."

The report, to be published by the Apex Trust, a charity which promotes employment opportunities for prisoners, highlights innovative schemes launched at jails in the Midlands with the help of the private sector. Employers are providing work and training for motivated inmates outside jail and, in a few cases, inside.

Taylor Woodrow Construction, which provides work for about half a dozen inmates on a building site near Featherstone jail, outside Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, said yesterday that it found the prisoners keen and willing, although it had simply wanted an opportunity to break the tedium of jail life.

Jan Leake, regional industrial relations manager for the contractor's Midlands subsidiary, said: "Unfortunately, we have more prisoners applying for posts than we have places available, but those who have been taken on have proved good workers."

Inmates are chosen through character references by prison staff and an interview conducted by the firm. Successful candidates are paid £25 a week, compared to average weekly earnings of £2.60 for inmates employed in prison service workshops. Taylor Woodrow also makes a

substantially larger "reimbursement" each week to the prison department.

At Birmingham prison, where two-thirds of the 980 inmates are unemployed, a company is considering the provision of work training for people convicted of sex offences. The scheme is part of a programme sponsored by British Telecom and evaluated by the Apex Trust.

Of the 49,600 prisoners last year, 22,898 were employed each day, and 2,492 were on vocational training courses. Opportunities for work have also fallen over the past 20 years. The average working week of prison workshops was 21 hours in 1988-89, compared with 28 hours in 1972-73.

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Idyll

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Idyll of old England recoils at coal wagon

By JOHN YOUNG

BERKSWELL is unequivocally a handsome village. It nestles in the very heart of England, in the Meriden Gap that divides Birmingham from Coventry, and it boasts 42 listed buildings, among them a Norman church with a Tudor vestry, a working forge, a 16th-century public house, a museum and an abundance of half-timbered cottages.

Its name is said to derive from a well belonging to a Saxon lord called Bercul and the original well is situated near the church. Documentary records date back to the early 14th century and a few years ago it won a competition in the United States for the most attractive "off the beaten track" village in Great Britain.

Given the proximity of Coventry and the industrial West Midlands, it is wonderfully peaceful and unspoiled. Unlike many villages, it still has a thriving shop and post office, and home-made teas are served in the village hall.

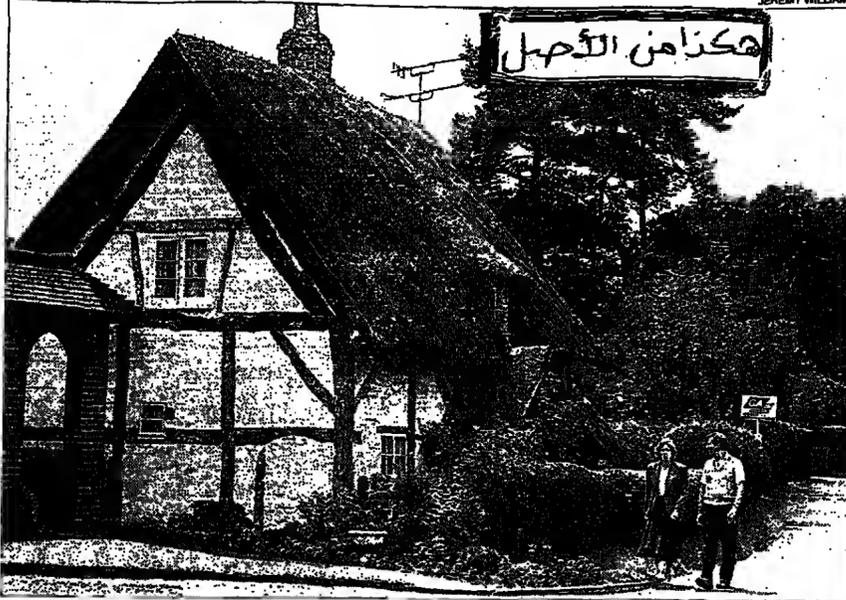
For the past few years, however, Berkswell has been under a monstrous cloud. Only half a mile away at Hawkhurst Moor, British Coal wants to sink a pit to mine one of the richest seams in Europe, part of the giant unexploited Warwickshire coalfield. A four-month public inquiry was held last year, but the Department of the Environment has yet to reach a decision on it. At the inquiry much the same arguments

were rehearsed as at earlier inquiries into proposals for Selby in North Yorkshire, and the Vale of Belvoir in Leicestershire. British Coal emphasised the need to exploit new energy sources and the measures it would take to landscape the surroundings, avoid nuisance and disruption and keep dust and dirt under control.

Mr Terry Liggins, chairman of the Berkswell Society, is not convinced by British Coal's reassurances, however. "The noise and traffic during the construction period will be intolerable," he says. "Although it is a very deep seam, there will still be very severe subsidence. We are very worried about dust pollution and, although British Coal have said there will be no spoil heaps and that they will dispose of all the waste in old sand and gravel diggings, there is simply not enough space."

Fay Cairns, the society's secretary, says that construction would take 10 years and might not start for another 10 years. In the meantime, the village would remain blighted. Many people have already moved away, fearing that the character of the village will change, she says.

Perhaps the strongest case against the mine is that the green belt between Coventry and Birmingham is one of the narrowest and most vulnerable in Britain. It has already been intruded upon by the National Exhibition Centre



Alison Negus and Dr David Stableforth, opponents of the mine, in the threatened village of Berkswell

and by Birmingham airport and there is talk of a high-technology complex. Berkswell and Hampton-in-Arden are the only two remaining real villages in the area, where unspoiled countryside in-

cludes ancient woodland and bird sanctuaries.

One reason for the delay in reaching a decision is thought to be uncertainty about the future of energy policy. The recent controversy over the

soaring cost of Sizewell in Suffolk has done little for the cause of nuclear energy but equally the building of coal-fired power stations is unpopular because of concern about sulphur and carbon

dioxide emission. Originally most of the coal from the proposed Berkswell pit was intended for Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, but that station's future is now said to be in doubt.

Water firm fined £4,000 for fouling trout stream

A WATER company was fined the maximum penalty of £4,000 yesterday after admitting wiping out the entire fish population of a two-mile stretch of trout stream by allowing a water treatment chemical to flow into the river Worth, near Haworth, West Yorkshire.

Catherine Carter, for the prosecution, told magistrates in Keighley, West Yorkshire, that more than 250 dead trout and 600 other dead fish were brought out of the river near Yorkshire Water Services' Oldfield treatment plant.

The pollutant, ferric sulphate, caused the river's acidity to increase by up to 100,000 times and the iron level to rise 145 times above the safe level for fish.

Ms Carter said that the company was fined £1,000 in Sheffield last December for a similar offence at Ewden Beck.

The firm, which admitted the charges, was fined the maximum of £2,000 on each offence and ordered to pay £631 costs.

The court was told that the company had paid £1,350 to restock the river with trout and was negotiating over possible compensation.

The weedkiller most widely used by councils has been banned in parts of Hampshire after it was found to have con-

taminated trout and salmon fisheries on the river Test (Douglas Broom writes).

A similar ban was ordered by Cambridgeshire county council last week in response to concern about levels of the chemical in drinking water. Atrazine is used by almost all local authorities as a general weedkiller on road verges, pavements, playing fields and public parks. British Rail also uses it on railway lines.

Friends of the Earth, which has been calling for a ban on atrazine and its sister chemical simazine for more than two years, welcomed the Hampshire decision. Blake Loo-Harwood, the pressure group's water pollution campaigner, said that little was known about the long-term effects of the chemicals on humans but tests on rats had produced liver and kidney damage.

The Association of County Councils said local authorities were considering banning atrazine as part of a nationwide "green audit" of chemicals in municipal use.

British Rail said atrazine was the only chemical suitable for killing weeds growing between the sleepers on railway tracks. However, it was not used close to sites of special scientific interest or on embankments.

Leaving London?, page 20

Parliament

Police warned over standards of courtesy

OFFICERS of the Metropolitan police were warned by the Home Secretary yesterday that Londoners were entitled to a better standard of courtesy and service from their police force.

David Waddington was speaking during a Commons debate on policing in London. As a result of the commissioner's PLUS programme, a searching examination of the service the force could offer, he hoped to see an increased emphasis on victims, a better response to the public's priorities, better strategic planning and better value for money.

"Above all, I want to see improvements in basic standards of courtesy and service." There was a risk that by accepting that change was necessary, they damaged morale of the thousands in the police force who already delivered a high quality service, but the aim was to ensure that all lived up to the standards of the majority, and the majority need not feel unappreciated.

Opening the debate, Mr Waddington said that while most local authorities in London had an excellent record of working constructively with the police, five Labour-controlled councils had, until recently, refused to cooperate with police consultative groups.

When he named the five as Brent, Ealing, Hackney, Lambeth and Islington there were strong protests from Labour MPs. Mr Waddington said that if he was wrong about Islington, he withdrew his remarks unreservedly, but it was a poor reflection that some councils were not behaving as they should.

The Metropolitan Police were in a very real sense responsive to the people of London. Elected representatives could demand responses and at divisional level the police were closely in touch with the public through police consultative groups, lay visitor schemes and more informal contacts. "There is no doubt about responsibility and there is no doubt about the readiness to respond."

Mr Waddington said that the criminal statistics recorded by the commissioner in his annual report made sober reading. Of particular concern was the increase in violent crime, particularly where groups were special targets as a result of their age, sex, ethnicity or the colour of their skins.

The police were waging a constant and courageous struggle against crime. Seven per cent more crimes were cleared up last year than the year before and muggings fell by nine per cent.

To meet the great concern about violence to women, the police were improving facilities for the treatment of victims of sexual assault and attacks in the home. There were now eight rape victim examination suites and 35 domestic violence units in London. There were 42 per cent more incidents of domestic violence last year than the year before.

"This is a terrible indication of what goes on behind closed

doors and drawn curtains in London, but the fact that these incidents are being reported when clearly they were not in the past is also a significant indicator of public confidence in the force's ability to respond."

A similar approach had been adopted on racial attacks. There were now 15 racial incident panels in London. Police success in encouraging victims to report attacks had been partly responsible for a 22 per cent increase in the statistics.

As evidence of the partnership between police and public, there were more than 10,000 neighbourhood watch schemes covering more than 1.5 million households. Cab and pub watch schemes and the setting up of adult and youth crime prevention panels were getting the message through that crime was everyone's problem.

Worries were sometimes expressed about lack of civility of a minority of policemen, and some people expressed concern about a tendency for the police to become remote and insular.

In a way it was not surprising that the police should develop an insular approach. Too often they were subjected to undeserved and unfair criticism which must sometimes make them feel embattled and alone. There were some problems, however, and the police were grappling with these.

Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that crime had risen so much faster in London than in other cities because the additional burdens associated with policing the capital made extra demands on time and resources.

One problem in London was dilapidated housing estates, decrepit Victorian houses and derelict shops which were all a breeding ground for crime, especially when they were side by side with leisure facilities which were run down because of the squeeze on local authority budgets.

At no time in recent history had police morale been lower, partly because of being overworked and partly because the police felt that these extra burdens had not brought proper government recognition of their difficulties.

The Metropolitan police were to be congratulated on much of what they had achieved in the past year.

Mrs Teresa Gorman (Bilberisay, C) wanted the police to teach young women how to cope with attackers in their homes, on the streets, in cinemas or on the underground. She did not subscribe to the view that women should not fight back and recommended "socking them in the chops or kneeling them in the groin".

The following acts received royal assent: Entertainments (Increased Penalties); Licensing (Low Alcohol Drinks); Term and Quarter Days (Scotland); Access to Health Records; Rights of Way; Horses (Protective Headgear for Young Riders); Gaming (Amendment); Social Security.

Royal birthday tribute

Mrs Thatcher, Neil Kinnock and other party leaders warmly congratulated the Queen Mother on her 90th birthday when the Commons agreed that the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill), the prime minister, party leaders, and Sir Bernard Braine (father of the House), should, on their behalf, deliver a formal address of greetings.

The prime minister said that nothing had endeared the public more than the decision of the then King and Queen to share the hazards of the bomb-scarred capital during the blitz.

"The warmth of her own affection for the nation is mirrored in the affections of the nation for her. She has come to symbolise the continuing of the Royal Family across four generations. The Queen's realms and the Commonwealth owe her a debt that can never be repaid."

Mr Kinnock referred to Queen Elizabeth's personal kindness and ability to make everyone feel special. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, spoke of "a certain magic in her ability to unite hearts and affections."

Compared to the level of inflation, over the last 4 years British Gas tariffs have fallen by 10%



Albania braces for a revolution waiting to happen

Albania's days are numbered as the last remaining bastion of orthodox communism in Europe, Charles Meynell, editor of East European News Letter, writes. He finds ominous comparisons between Ceausescu's Romania and the problems facing President Alia's regime.

ALBANIA is heading swiftly into revolution. Tinkering with the politburo of the atrophied communist Albanian Workers' party is almost irrelevant at this late stage. To the young Albanians crowding into the embassies in Tirana or meeting dejectedly in town squares, it matters not who is minister of light industry.

Albanians have watched East Europe's revolutions on their television screens. They do not intend to remain in a time warp in the centre of post-revolutionary Europe. It would be astonishing if they did not take to the streets now that the totalitarian ruling party has its back to the wall. Ramiz Alia, the hapless president, will be

lucky to hang on for six weeks. The Romanian revolution is probably a foretaste of what can be expected in Albania. Both countries were terrorised by a ruthless political police, both have been subjected to years of slavish personality cult. Until two weeks ago Enver Hoxha, the former leader, was deified daily. The differences between the two countries is that Mr Alia, in contrast to Nicolae Ceausescu, is quite popular, and the Albanian political elite does not flaunt its superiority and wealth.

Albanian peasant farmers want to do what they like with their goats and ancestors' land; engineers want to rejoin the tech-

nical world from which they have been barred for 45 years; intellectuals want freedom of speech and a cultural renaissance. Everybody knows that the stalinist system adhered to by Hoxha during 40 years of despotism is unreformable, with or without Mr Alia.

That lesson has been learnt with a vengeance by the rest of Eastern Europe. Mr Alia, President Iliescu of Romania, and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader in Yugoslavia, are yesterday's men.

One of the most astonishing aspects of the Albanian saga is that, from Hoxha's death in April 1985 to July 7 this year, the politburo remained exactly the same, as if petrified. The explanation is simple. Mr Alia is a weak personality, conditioned for years as a slave to Hoxha.

He has tried three times to introduce economic reforms over the past three years. Almost nothing has resulted, for he has failed to prevail over the closely knit conservative clique that effectively runs the country. Nexhije, Hoxha's widow, is the group's

spiritual leader. Mr Alia's guarded criticisms of his country's ruthless Sigurimi secret police were nothing short of pathetic. His two reformist colleagues, Foto Cami, the ideology chief, and, to a lesser extent, Besnik Bekteshi, the economics chief, were publicly much more reformist two years ago than they are now. They, too, were cowed into silence.

Ismail Kadare, the best-known contemporary Albanian writer, whose literacy and intellectual credentials are genuine although he is a party member, summed it up in an interview in the Albanian youth paper. In reference to the police state, he said: "A criminal psychosis is one which drives a country, state or administration towards crime. Created by the darkest forces in a country, it is enthusiastically amplified by the state's repressive apparatus..."

"Blinded by their psychosis, and desperate to prove their perennial theory that without them the state will collapse, they never imagine that the violence they carry out is a catastrophe for

the state and themselves. Thus, as faithful dogs of the state, they become its destroyers."

The belated retirement from the politburo last week of Prokop Murra, the defence minister, and Simon Stefani, the interior minister, just as the communist party faced a terminal crisis, was another nail in its coffin. Mr Murra was succeeded by General Kico Mustaqi, his long-standing deputy, a former Sigurimi chief whom Hoxha put in charge of the army in 1982. Colonel Mustaqi has effectively run defence and security affairs for eight years.

Mr Stefani was succeeded by the pliant, unimaginative Hekuran Isai, another Hoxha protégé thrust forward, like the colonel, after Hoxha had Mehmet Shehu, the prime minister, killed in 1981.

Mr Alia does not have the option of acquiescing to a number of opposition demands. There is no organised opposition, and there are no specific demands. Rather, there is a mass of angry, frustrated young people who are longing for basic freedoms. Mr

Alia has nobody to negotiate with. Instead he and his colleagues will face demonstrations all over the country which will rapidly get out of hand. As those who know Albanians well will testify, once their tails are up, they will go for it: party offices will be ransacked, the Sigurimi will be lynched (although not before they have fought back), and there will be a frightening power vacuum until a liberal intellectual with a commanding personality temporarily fills the void. Kadare?

It will probably be a roller-coaster of a revolution. But further ahead the prospects are good. Albanians are an exceptional people, as can be seen in the skills and prosperity of the diaspora, particularly in the United States. They are good at business, and they are among the most engaging people in Europe.

Across the Yugoslav border in Kosovo province, ethnic Albanians have shown great skill in establishing efficient parties to counter the annexation policy of the neo-stalinist Serbian com-

munist party. Albania has the human resources, and is also potentially the richest country in Europe in terms of natural resources per capita: oil, hydro-electrical potential, base metals, chrome, good agricultural land, a wonderful climate, fine coastline and great tourist potential. Albania has it all. It will need a few billion dollars to get it going.

With President Alia's regime already making overtures to Moscow (and to the United States), Britain will soon be the only Western country not to have diplomatic relations. Two British gunboats were mined in the Corfu Channel in 1946, leading to the breaking of relations and a judgement by the International Court in The Hague against Albania.

The latter refused to pay the damages awarded; Britain kept Albania's wartime gold. The court's evidence was shaky. A deal will surely be struck by the end of the year. Perhaps Britain could bid for the Stalin Museum in Tirana, a fine pillared portico it has too. It would make a grand embassy.

Polish law abolishes state sector monopoly

From A CORRESPONDENT IN WARSAW

THE Polish parliament took a decisive step towards establishing a market-oriented economy yesterday by overwhelmingly passing a law to transfer state-owned properties into private hands.

The law, passed by the Sejm by 328 votes to two with 39 abstentions, also aims at encouraging badly needed investment by foreign companies. The law, as the most comprehensive of its type in eastern Europe, provides a framework for 80 per cent of the economy to be transferred from state to private sector through the issue of "privatization bonds". These will be given a nominal value by the Sejm and distributed for people to purchase shares in a company.

To help people to raise capital, the law creates credit, loan and deferred payment incentives. As an additional

fillip, wage controls will be loosened in the privatised enterprises.

During Thursday's parliamentary debate, Leszek Balcerowicz, the finance minister and architect of the economic stabilisation plan, said that "we must make the ownership transformations faster than any country has ever done before us", adding that he did not hesitate to call the law "a break-through decision."

Poland has already taken steps toward privatisation, especially of small businesses. Around 3,000 shops have already been transferred to private hands.

The decisive final vote masked to some extent the serious debate during the past few months over the handover of state assets. Some voices have spoken out against what was described as a return to the robber-baron days of 19th-century capitalism.

Peasants' Party deputies had strongly objected to the measures because they gave priority to employees in purchasing their companies' bonds and shares, which they may do at half the market price.

But an attempt by the Peasant Party historian, Jan Warian, to vote down the bill was overwhelmingly rejected and the chamber agreed to an amendment permitting farmers also to get priority consideration in firms with which their products are linked.

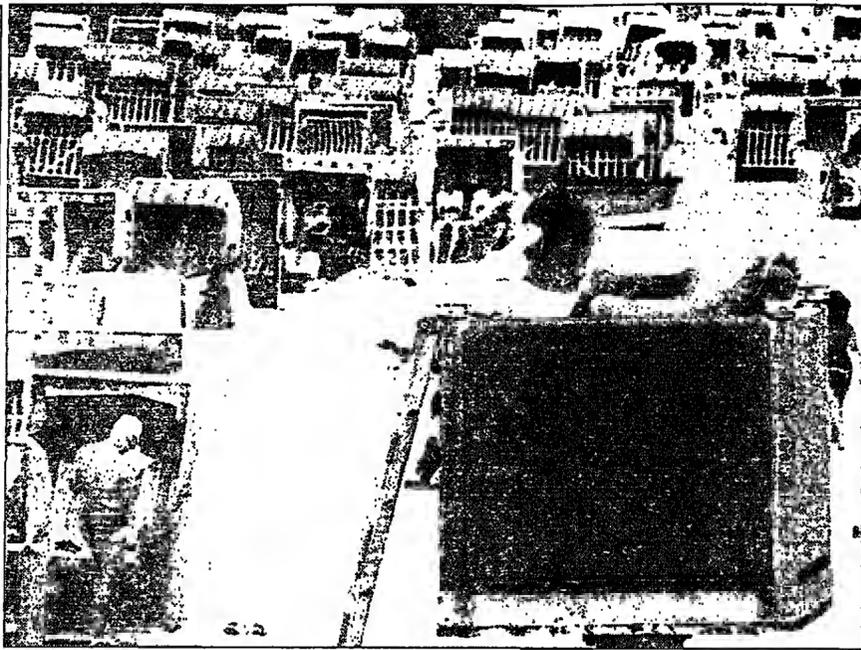
An amendment to the bill directs the government to outline the basic direction privatisation should take and how the funds obtained from selling shares in state-owned firms will be used.

The law also encourages foreign investment. For example, no special government permission is required if a foreign investor purchases less than 10 per cent of a Polish firm.

"Our Western partners are waiting for a prompt start to privatisation," Mr Balcerowicz said. "This will be proof of our credibility."

While parliament readily agreed to the leap toward capitalism, the public may find it harder to swallow. A government survey showed that while only 11 per cent of the people are totally against privatisation, a mere 3 per cent "are ready to involve themselves actively in the process".

The philosophy that the state owns and runs everything had for four decades turned industry in Poland and the other former communist states into inefficient behemoths and state-owned apartment blocks into run-down buildings where residents felt no responsibility for their upkeep.



While the coast is clear, a lifeguard in Timmendorf, a German resort on the Baltic, puts his feet up. But fine weather this weekend is expected to bring a flood of tourists to the popular coastline

Radicals outflank Gorbachev

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

HOW can anyone not feel just a little sympathy for President Gorbachev this weekend? For 10 days he planned and calculated and scolded and bargained until finally on Thursday morning he was able to present his impatient reformers with the scalp they had craved. Yegor Ligachev, the defiant advocate of collective farming, state ownership and central planning had been soundly defeated at a party congress regarded as the most conservative on record.

Within eight hours, however, the reformists had turned around without so much as a word of appreciation and said that Mr Ligachev's scalp was not enough to keep them in the party. They wanted party and state posts to be separated, from the top downwards; they wanted a full commitment to a parliamentary system and an end to what they saw as the

diktat of the majority over the minority. Without further ado, some of the most colourful and considered reformers in the party had gone, announcing their intention of taking as much of the party with them as they could.

Mr Gorbachev must have believed that he had given the radicals enough to keep them in the party. Why else should he have risked the defection of conservatives by destroying Mr Ligachev? The small print of the congress documents is evidence of how far he had moved towards the reformists even in the past three months.

There is a commitment to separate party and state, which is reinforced in the structure of the new leadership. Party organs will remain in the army and the KGB, but in a way designed to place them on a par with organisations of other parties. There are far friendlier words about

the Communist party as a parliamentary party than the reformists could have dreamt of when they founded their Democratic Platform group in February. While the emotive principle of democratic centralism may have been retained, the caveats make clear that, in substance, it is dead.

In practice, if not in words, Mr Gorbachev has also accepted the principle of a federal party. But for radicals whose tolerance for word play has been exhausted, promises were insufficient. Commitment to the separation of party and state, to parliamentarism and party democracy was not enough so long as Mr Gorbachev retained the party leadership and the presidency. They distrusted reforms which rested on an assumed discrepancy between words and deeds. Despite the drama of their announcement, the declared schism was an exag-

geration. This was not the big walkout the Democratic Platform had been threatening. How could it be when fewer than 100 delegates belonged to their movement?

Two circumstances have, none the less, helped to make the Democratic Platform's statement potentially more dangerous to the Soviet Communist party than it might have been: the formation of the Russian Federation Communist party last month and the departure from the party of Boris Yeltsin.

The election by the Russian Federation party of the reputed conservative, Ivan Polozkov, as its leader, has given the planned breakaway party a rich recruiting ground in Russia. Dozens of urban party organisations have made clear that they do not want to join the Russian party, even though they are automatically considered part of it by virtue of living in the Russian Federation.

Those party organisations, if they voted to join the new Democratic Platform party en bloc, could take with them their premises, their publications and their subscriptions, so giving the new party a base infinitely stronger than that enjoyed by any political group except the ruling Communist party. This is why the Democratic Platform leaders have appealed to Communists not to hand in their party cards individually. Despite the group's poor representation at the congress, it is still aiming to split the party.

Even though the circumstances for the Democratic Platform's proposed new party seem advantageous, the radicals may have left their move too late.



Democratic Platform leaders Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, right, Vladimir Lyzenko, left, and Vladimir Filin telling the press in Moscow of plans to form a new party

Leading article, page 13

Tirana stays silent on the refugee exodus

From TIM JUDAH, STRIGA, SOUTHERN YUGOSLAVIA

AS THOUSANDS of refugees in foreign embassies began their journeys to the West, Albanian television news made a conscious decision: this was not news.

Far more interesting were the activities of the people of Puka, a small northern town. The newscaster reported that some of its inhabitants had gone on a picnic and a film report showed them playing handball.

But to be fair, Puka was not in the headlines. These were dominated by the telegrams.

Ever since Tirana's refugee crisis began, President Alia has been receiving telegrams. From far and wide, from factory and village, they have been pouring in and it appears that almost every single one is being read on television.

Supportive messages have showered President Alia since refugees began packing into Tirana embassies.

A group of university students and intellectuals assured the government they were "at one with the party", and that they would "fight for the independence of Albania". A factory near Tirana said: "All our enemies will be destroyed."

Even the residents of Puka found time to send a telegram. "We agree with the opening of private shops," it read.

The television is also filled with intellectuals' commentaries on the "vagabond" and "hooligan" situation, as it is referred to.

Prec Zogac, a poet, told the country that those who were leaving "would be sorry pretty soon".

He also noted that among poets and writers there had been "no dissidents", but it is unlikely that this was being offered as evidence of the efficiency of the dreaded secret police, the Sigurimi.

An artist then denounced the "work of enemies" and said that he had composed a poem. It began: "Wherever you go, you won't find your mother."

An evening of Albanian television reveals that, except for the cartoons, it ranks as Europe's most worthy and earnest network. It begins in the early evening with foreign language courses and after the news goes on to Tirana's answer to *Blue Peter*. In the Thursday edition, children were taught how to make a dress, and musical interludes included five rather glum and nervous 12-year-old communist pioneers playing mandolins.

With the children packed off to bed, television continued with a discussion programme about the work of Haxhi Tafaj, who appeared to be a sort of local Harry Scornbee.

This was followed with a half-hour interview with a paediatrician and then more (of the same) news. The weather report revealed temperatures of up to 35C.

Those waiting for some

light entertainment still had more worthy programming to wade through. *You make me proud, Albania* was a discussion programme about "the great patriot" Bajo Topulli, who died fighting the Turks early this century. But it was not quite as dull as it sounds.

There was a film reconstruction of Bajo Topulli's last stand and an amusing bit which showed Albania's late dictator, Enver Hoxha, paying homage at a Bajo Topulli monument. Hoxha looked the Topulli statue in the eye, chuckled and patted him on the cheek.

For anyone who had persevered this far, light entertainment was now finally available. Albanians could watch a thriller starring Franco Nero, set in Australia. However, even here those worrying about the lack of ideological content could draw satisfaction. For a country beset by "hooligans" this was a tough script about law enforcement called *The Magistrate*. Point taken.

Cubans seize diplomat

From AFP IN PRAGUE

A CZECHOSLOVAK diplomat was held hostage for several hours in Havana by five Cubans who broke into his flat in an unsuccessful attempt to join 14 others taking refuge at the Czechoslovak embassy, the Prague foreign ministry said yesterday. Fifteen Cubans have sought asylum in foreign missions in the past week.

An official communiqué said the five intruders forced their way into the home of Jan Domok, the chargé d'affaires, on Thursday morning. The Czechoslovak foreign ministry, in a statement quoted by the official CTK news agency, said the diplomat tricked his way out of the situation after telling his captors they would not get into the embassy. Mr Domok informed the Cuban authorities and promised that the five would be given no diplomatic protection.

The Cuban refugee crisis began on Monday, when five Cubans entered the Czechoslovak embassy claiming they feared imminent arrest for dissident activity. Two more students entered later on Monday, seeking asylum, followed by seven others who got into the compound on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, another man took refuge in the Spanish embassy in Havana.

Yesterday, Mario Rodriguez Martínez, the Cuban ambassador in Prague, went for talks at the foreign minister. It said said that Czechoslovakia would be asking Cuban authorities to ensure the security of its diplomats in Havana and the normal functioning of the embassy, in the interest of good bilateral relations.

CTK said the Cuban ambassador was told that Czechoslovakia would not hand over those who were now in the embassy. It had asked for them to be allowed to leave Cuba, freely to go to the country of their choice. Prague was seeking diplomatic aid from other countries, the agency reported.

Diplomats in Havana have said they did not expect the trickle of asylum seekers to grow into the kind of refugee tide seen in Albania, and in Cuba in 1980 when some 10,000 Cubans descended on the Peruvian embassy. Then Havana eventually allowed 128,000 unemployed citizens to leave for the United States.

Deaths as Haiti boat capsizes

Miami - A wooden sail boat, overloaded with illegal Haitian emigrants, capsized while under tow by a Bahamian naval vessel, drowning at least 39 people, the Bahamas Government said (Alan Tomlinson writes).

A fisherman who helped bury the dead on a tiny desert island said that 48 people died on Tuesday off Staniel Cay, north of Great Exuma Island. The disaster was not made public until Thursday.

Sixty-seven survivors were taken to Nassau for deportation back to Haiti, together with 209 men, women and children from another Haitian boat intercepted near by.

Aids monkeys

Kampala - Uganda is to export 3,000 vervet monkeys to the Soviet Union to be used in research on Aids drugs being developed there, the official *New Vision* newspaper reported. (AFP)

Women priests

Dar es Salaam - Tanzania's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the largest Lutheran church in Africa, voted to ordain women priests, a church source said. (Reuters)

Migrants boost

Canberra - Australia announced changes in immigration points test for family and independent applicants which would boost the number of migrants by nearly 12,000 this year. (AFP)

Haj action

Nicosia - Iran's leading judge, Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Yazdi, said Tehran would lodge a complaint against Saudi Arabia with international courts over the death of 1,426 pilgrims in the haj tunnel tragedy. (Reuters)

Small change

Tokyo - A Japanese bank robber gave himself up after he discovered that his haul from the Kyoto Central Trust Bank turned out to be mostly fake notes. (Reuters)

After shocks

San Francisco - Nine months after an earthquake caused power backlogs and flattened elevated roads here, the Seton Medical Centre reported a 25 per cent increase in births. (Reuters)

Senate panel backs troop cut of 50,000 in Europe

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate armed services committee yesterday voted to cut \$18 billion (£10 billion) from the \$307 billion which the White House had requested for defence next year and to withdraw 50,000 US troops from Europe.

In a series of big decisions, the committee lopped nearly \$1 billion from the \$4.6 billion which the administration wanted for the Strategic Defence Initiative and refused to provide the money to put nuclear-tipped MX missiles on trains, a strategy pursued by both the Reagan and Bush administrations as a means of reducing vulnerability.

However the committee also voted to keep the B2 "Stealth" bomber programme alive, endorsing the downwardly-revised request of Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, for the purchase of two of the \$800 million planes in 1991.

Though the committee's decisions are far from final, they represent the very best that the

administration can hope for as the Democrat-controlled Congress finally gets down to the task of determining the 1991 defence budget.

The committee chairman is Sam Nunn, the congressional Democrat most sympathetic to the Pentagon's pleas that any post-Cold War winding down of America's military strength be gradual and prudent. The bulk of his party wants still deeper cuts, in the region of \$24 billion, while Jim Sasser, the Democratic chairman of the Senate budget committee, has called for a cut of \$26 billion.

America's soaring budget deficit, now a projected \$160 billion in 1991, has intensified still further the pressure on the defence budget, which accounts for a quarter of all federal spending, and the committee sketched out another \$4 billion in cuts which would take effect if required by a bipartisan budget agreement.

The committee voted to reduce all American forces by a total of 100,000 in 1991, with 50,000 of those coming from the 311,000 US troops stationed in Europe.

The vote pre-empts the results of the stalled Conventional Forces in Europe talks which are aiming to place a 195,000 ceiling on both superpowers' forces in Central Europe with a further 30,000 American troops in Britain, Italy and Greece.

In a meeting which continued till the early hours of yesterday morning, the committee voted to freeze SDI research spending at around this year's level of \$3.6 billion. Congressional support for the programme has been wanting fast and that figure could yet be reduced still further.

The committee agreed to fund fully the administration's \$202 million request for development of the Midgetman nuclear missile but approved only \$548 million for the MX missile. It refused the \$1.3 billion needed to put the MX on rails.

One congressional source called the outcome of the committee's deliberations a "blueprint for the next decade".

It stemmed from a series of hearings into future American defence requirements which the committee conducted earlier this year.

The committee's recommendations now go to the Senate floor, while the House armed services committee begins deliberations on its version of the defence bill. Ultimately the House and Senate bills have to be reconciled in special conference.

Mr Cheney has fought a fierce rearguard action to protect the military from deep and precipitate cuts and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently appealed to Congress not to make cuts that would "break the back" of the armed services.

House Democrats have been pushing for cuts which Mr Cheney claims could lead to a reduction of 700,000 in America's 2.1 million active service troops by the late 1990s.

UK seeks delay on refugees

A STRONG belief that six Asian nations may be about to prevent boat people landing at their ports has prompted an intensive British diplomatic effort to persuade them to delay their decision (Andrew McEwen writes).

The government fears that Hong Kong, which has had a respite from the influx of boat people, will again become the main destination for Vietnamese leaving their country.

But the Association of South-East Asian Nations is in no mood to accept further delay after more than a year of fruitless international negotiations to establish the right of its members to send boat people back to Vietnam.

Land dispute talks 'progress'

Ottawa - Negotiations to end the land dispute in Quebec were said to be progressing yesterday (John Best writes). John Ciaccia, the Quebec provincial minister for native affairs, described as "very positive" a three-hour session with Mohawk Indian leaders, who are refusing to let officials develop land they say is theirs.

The talks come in the wake of a gun battle that broke out this week when police attacked a barrier blocking access to the land near Montreal, and an officer was killed.

Sister-in-law of Gandhi 'resigns'

Delhi - Maneka Gandhi, India's embattled environment minister and the sister-in-law of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister, has resigned because many of her powers had been reduced, official sources said yesterday.

Her resignation highlighted growing dissension in the government and the ruling National Front coalition. (Reuter)

Families blame suicides on music

From REUTER IN RENO, NEVADA

A JUDGE in Nevada will decide if subliminal messages allegedly contained on a record album by a British rock group encouraged two young men to kill themselves with a sawn-off shotgun.

The group Judas Priest, and CBS records, are the defendants in a lawsuit in which families of the two dead men are seeking at least \$500,000 (£279,000) in medical and other damages. The trial starts on Monday.

In December 1985, Raymond Eugene Belknap, aged 20, and James Vance, aged 18, shot themselves after an afternoon spent drinking beer, smoking marijuana and listening to an album by the group Judas Priest, called *Stained Class*.

Eugene Belknap died instantly. James Vance, his face partially destroyed, lived on for three years more.

In a deposition, Vance had said that the moody, hypnotic music and lyrics - including a song titled *Beyond the Realm of Death* - "made me want to stop living".

Ken McKenna, the attorney representing Belknap's mother, claims Belknap and Vance were the victims of subliminal messages that bypass the reasoning function of the brain and work on the unconsciousness.

Mr McKenna and audio

experts working for the plaintiffs claim that playing the record backwards reveals "commands to take action", such as repeated urgings to "Do it, do it!"

Experts for the defence dismiss the claim and call the notion of implanting subliminal messages beneath the surface of music and lyrics "voodooism".

Anthony Pellicano, the president of a Los Angeles audio laboratory, said: "If you can hear it, it gets stored (in the brain). If you can't hear it, it doesn't get stored."

Simply stated, said Suellen Fustorum, the attorney for the record company and Judas Priest, Belknap and Vance died as the result of a suicide pact between two troubled and anti-social youths.

She said rock music lyrics, like other forms of expression, were protected by the free-speech guarantees contained in the United States constitution.

In a similar case heard in California in 1988, an appeal court upheld a lower court's dismissal of a suit filed by the parents of a 19-year-old who killed himself after listening to an album by Ozzy Osborne called *Suicide Solution*. That music allegedly contained a subliminal call to "Get the gun and try it, shoot, shoot, shoot."



Rescuers carrying a critically injured pilot from the wreckage of his plane, which crashed into the canyon walls of the Ogden river in Utah, then tumbled into the torrent below. The pilot, Floyd Duncan, was trapped for more than half an hour. A passenger was killed.

Burmese military rulers issue warning to opposition

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN RANGOON

THE Burmese military junta indicated yesterday that Aung San Suu Kyi, the leading dissident, will not be released next week and warned her party not to try to announce a government despite its landslide elec-

tion victory. Major-General Khin Nyunt, head of military intelligence, said the junta would not yield to international pressure for her release or a transfer of power to her National League for Democracy.

Daw Suu Kyi was put under house arrest in 1989 for one year. She was arrested after she vowed to lead a

mass anti-government rally. She has never been formally charged.

The pressure to release her amounted to "undue interference in the internal affairs of our country," Khin Nyunt said. In the May election the National League for Democracy won 396 out of 485 seats. The general said the military government was

"ruling the country under martial law. No attempt at a unilateral declaration of government will be tolerated," the government said.

The general said Daw Suu Kyi was being treated leniently.

She was able to receive gift parcels from her British husband through the British Embassy.

Sicilians riot over water shortage

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

A WATER shortage in southern Italy, resulting from the unusually dry winter, has resulted in mob violence in the western Sicilian town of Ribera.

Farmers chanting "we want water" yesterday accused local politicians of neglecting the situation. They demonstrated outside a town hall destroyed by fire on Thursday after hundreds of people from Ribera and surrounding farms stormed the building and set fire to smashed furniture.

They vowed to continue demonstrating till the situation improves. Extra carabinieri have been dispatched to maintain order.

One farmer, Giuseppe Verde, said: "The reason we do not have enough water is that the mayor and the city councillors have not built the aqueducts they were supposed to build. And the provincial and regional politicians are no better. The money is there but they don't use it for our interests but for their own."

Drought has become, for much of Italy, a perennial problem. A series of dry winters and inefficient aqueducts has left agricultural areas chronically short of water.

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APR %	0%	9.5%	13.2%
Monthly Instalments (24)	143.83	109.99	91.77
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A turbulent year that turned the tide for autocrats

Another wind of change is blowing through Africa, as pressure grows to sweep aside single-party systems. Gregory Kronstein, Africa editor for the Economist Intelligence Unit, reports on democracy's progress.

THE past six months have seen political developments in Africa that were unthinkable a year ago. Only a handful of countries, notably Botswana and Senegal, operated multi-party systems last year, but the one-party monopoly is increasingly being discarded.

In November President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast was reverentially unseated after the establishment of an Unesco prize for peace research in his name. By February, student demonstrations in Abidjan were calling for his resignation, and by June, 14 opposition par-

ties had been officially recognised. President Mobutu of Zaïre, an entrenched autocrat supported by zealous security forces, a personality cult, Western allies and a measure of goodwill, shocked observers in April by announcing the birth of the multi-party era.

The rapid changes have been influenced by events in Eastern Europe. African rulers have drawn conclusions for their survival, while the ruled, particularly the urban middle class, have watched apparently unassailable regimes tumble. Security forces are held in less fear and government critics have found a new readiness to take to the streets.

Certain official tenets of one-party philosophy are now treated with scepticism, notably the claim that multi-party government is synonymous with ethnic strife. The rulers themselves are no longer united on this point. Presidents Moi of Kenya and Mugabe of Zimbabwe still hold to this line, while President Babangida of Nigeria has permitted only two political parties and President Mobutu three, in the interests of ethnic harmony. To confuse the

picture further, Swaziland and Lesotho, perhaps the only two ethnically homogeneous states in Africa, have seen few indications of a multi-party dawn.

Traditional Western allies have also played their part. The American ambassador in Kenya said in public in May that his government's aid policy would partly reflect the political system of the recipient country. France has become more discerning in using its military.

Britain has welcomed the transition to a civil rule programme in Nigeria, its principal trading partner in black Africa, although in general it prefers to use its influence behind the scenes to push for liberalisation. The World Bank introduced the element of "better government" in its report issued in November, *Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth*. This suggested that greater accountability tended to motivate institutions and individuals and to make austerity measures that the bank is advocating widely in Africa more palatable. Even the Soviet Union has told the Ethiopian government that it cannot supply military support as long as

President Mengistu has no real intention of negotiating with the Eritrean and Tigrayan rebels.

The political landscape has changed so fast that some rulers will have difficulty preserving a place for themselves in the new order. These are not born democrats and their reaction had been broadly to respond to individual challenges without a strategy. It would seem that the autocrat is at his weakest when making concessions under duress, and that he who gives ground spontaneously stands a better chance of survival.

Presidents Mobutu and Sassou-Nguesso of Congo come within this category. President Mobutu of Zaïre has an impelling reason to find himself a role in the changing system: life for him as an ordinary citizen is not a practical possibility, not least because of his rumoured personal fortune, while his current allies are not expected to welcome him staying with them.

By contrast, President Bongo of Gabon has seen that a series of concessions since student riots in January has not bought him time. Two

government reshuffles in two months, the scrapping of some unpopular taxes, a new identity for the ruling party and a national conference have all failed to dampen popular demand for change.

President Kaunda named a date (October 17) for a referendum on multi-party rule after serious riots last month against food-price rises. In Ivory Coast President Houphouët-Boigny has met delegations of striking teachers, policemen, soldiers and bank workers, and accepted their grievances, while his government has pleaded its genuine financial difficulty. He is in his late 80s and is expected to stand down later this year. But he has only complicated the legacy of his successor.

President Mri is not alone in Africa in refusing to countenance changing the one-party state and has publicly referred to "multi-party garbage". But the probability is that a combination of the domino effect, further pressure from the aid donor community and intensification of public protest will force concessions from the Kenyan government. The moves towards multi-party sys-

tems should not be equated with the advent of undiluted Western parliamentary democracy. The ranks of the demonstrators on the streets of African cities have been swollen by a good number of opportunists.

In some countries the ruling group or, as in Burkina Faso, ruling coalition, is likely to remain, but with marked tendencies to increase the choice for or voter. With a more open ruling party or variety of parties, the presidency (not always contested) will be able to guide events through patronage, media influence and a say in the formulation of rules for the new system. This presidency is most unlikely to accept a genuine separation of powers between the executive, judiciary and legislature. Laws to make the security services accountable and introduce press freedom safeguards would not be on the agenda.

Political pluralism will thus have a strong African hue. But the rapid changes of the past six months are such that a number of well known African leaders will find themselves discarded, and in much reduced circumstances.

Mandela ridicules West over calls for African democracy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NAIROBI

NELSON Mandela yesterday entered the increasingly violent debate about democracy in Africa with a speech ridiculing recent calls from Western nations for the spread on the continent of the political pluralism now taking root in Eastern Europe.

To loud cheers, Mr Mandela asked his predominantly black African audience: "What rights has the West, what night has the whites, to teach us about democracy when they executed those who asked for democracy during the time of the colonial era?"

The attack appeared particularly aimed at criticism from Britain as Mr Mandela, dressed in a sweater and suit despite the blazing sun, went on to laud two prominent leaders of the Mau Mau struggle against the British, one of whom was executed by British forces in the 1950s.

The speech, delivered at a rally boycotted by many ordinary Kenyans in a protest against one-party rule in Kenya, was seen as support for President Moi in his continuing struggle against supporters of a multi-party system.

Mr Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, was addressing a crowd of barely 20,000 in a giant sports stadium designed to hold 60,000. Most of those who did attend were children and his arrival had to be delayed for more than two hours as the government bussed in more people to try to fill the embarrassing empty spaces.

Drivers who ferried correspondents to the rally at the stadium six miles outside

Nairobi, near a district which saw much recent rioting, claimed that many Kenyans had stayed away to express their anger at President Moi's refusal to permit any open debate over the future of Kenya's one-party system.

The country remained tense as rumours spread that another attempt to stage an illegal pro-democracy rally would be made today. Many white residents were stocking up with food in anticipation of more violence, and many others said they planned to leave Nairobi for the weekend. The government has detained at least five more pro-democracy campaigners over the past 48 hours and pledged ruthless tactics against any would-be demonstrators.

In an attempt to minimise yesterday's boycott, Kenya Television announced only hours before the Mandela rally that employers were being urged to grant workers a holiday to attend. But the move had little effect and diplomatic observers said the reception was one of the most feeble given to Mr Mandela during his six-week international tour. At 11am, the time he was scheduled to speak, scarcely 3,000 people were seated in the Chinese-financed stadium, whose architecture gave the proceedings a dated, communist-style feel. Anxious security men could be seen trying to rustle up more people and spreading those present to give an impression of a decent attendance.

"How many sons and daughters of Africa have paid with their own lives because all that they asked for was the right to determine their own affairs?" asked Mr Mandela in his diatribe against the West, which reflected growing resentment in many parts of black Africa against Western attempts to push the cause of democracy.

Anti-Western feeling in Kenya has been growing noticeably more bitter in recent days, with repeated attacks by the government and politicians on foreign embassies, notably that of the United States, and foreign journalists covering the violence which has so far left at least 28 people dead. A statement issued by 51 MPs of the ruling Kenya African National Union yesterday urged foreign correspondents, particularly those working for the BBC and the Voice of America, to cease describing the disturbances as "pro-democracy protest".

According to a report in the *Kenya Times*, the official voice of the party, the MPs told foreign journalists that what had been happening in some parts of the country was nothing but hoodlumism sponsored by a few anti-government elements.

In his speech Mr Mandela made no reference to the open letter addressed to him on Thursday by the wives of prominent Kenyans detained in the crackdown against pro-democracy campaigners, or to lawyers who have been forced either to flee abroad or to go into hiding to avoid indefinite detention without trial.

The letter, which made an impassioned plea to Mr Mandela to intercede with Mr Moi on behalf of the detainees, said that "unjustified imprisonment of the black man by the black man" was even more painful than the imprisonment of the black man by the white man, a pointed reference to the 27 years of imprisonment inflicted on Mr Mandela, who celebrates his 72 birthday next week.

Western criticism of Kenya's anti-democratic crackdown has increased with a strong appeal from the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland) for the release of all the detainees who had advocated multi-party democracy and human rights.

A communiqué stressed that Kenya's development was supported by assistance from the Nordic nations. Eric Fill, the Danish ambassador, said that if the prevailing political situation in Kenya continued, the Nordic countries would have to reconsider economic assistance which amounted to between \$70 million (\$39 million) and \$80 million a year.

The statement said: "The Nordic countries find it very distressing that the Kenya government authorities have had to react in a brutal manner against the proponents of multi-parties and a free exchange of views, concerning democratic development in the country." It warned that the continued repression of democratic rights would only tarnish the image of Kenya.

The condemnation of the Kenya government by the Nordic countries followed earlier strong criticism from the United States and has pointed up further the relatively low level of concern expressed publicly by Britain.



President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, right, showing President Babangida of Nigeria his controversial basilica at Yamoussoukro. It will be consecrated by the pope

Another Kenya activist held

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANOTHER prominent human rights activist in Kenya has been arrested despite growing international pressure on President Moi to end his crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Dr Martin Hill, an official with Amnesty International in London, said that George Anyona had been arrested amid unconfirmed reports that many others had been rounded up.

Mr Anyona's arrest is a further sign of Nairobi's determination to stifle demands for a multi-party state. Mr Anyona was imprisoned in 1982 when he tried to register the Kenya Socialist Party.

Police are understood to have feared that Mr Anyona, a former member of parliament, would be spurred by the pro-democracy campaign to make a second attempt. Another big unauthorised rally is expected to be held today.

Dr Gibson Kuria, a human rights lawyer who fled to Britain on Thursday to escape arrest, yesterday predicted "anarchy" in Kenya if the government continued to depart from the rule of law.

"The government has ... tried to suspend those parts of the constitution and laws which it thinks will facilitate the restoration of the multi-party system." It was possible

OAU members face threat of growing unrest

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NAIROBI

THE vague commitment to further democratisation at this week's summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity is unlikely to quell the unrest in many of the 51 member states, where decades of undemocratic rule are being challenged on the streets.

In Kenya, until last week one of Africa's more stable countries, it was considered typical of the government's contemptuous attitude towards the pro-democracy movement that there was no mention on Thursday of the OAU communiqué in the *Kenya Times*, the paper of the ruling party. Instead, the paper attacked Western news organisations, which it accused of "falshoods, distortions, innuendos and tendentiousness" for suggesting that the recent riots were linked to the campaign to end one-party rule.

More to the liking of leading party members was a comment by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe at a private session of the OAU in Addis Ababa. Answering those in the West demanding political reforms in Africa he said: "To such teachers of democracy I say 'go to hell'."

At the beginning of the year there were pro-democracy protests in more than a dozen African nations. These include Benin, Zambia, Ivory Coast, Zaïre and Gabon, which have had one-party regimes for over 18 years.

The attacks on the West have concentrated on the United States, which has been accused of a new brand of imperialism by suggesting that American aid will flow more readily to those embracing political pluralism.

The complaint reiterated by Kenyan ministers and by officials from other hard-pressed states is that African conditions are unlike those in Eastern Europe and the democratic solutions do not apply.

President Moi, whose only concession has been to state that multi-party democracy could not be ruled out if Kenya was to become a more cohesive nation, has claimed that introducing such a system now would increase the dangers of tribal violence.

Other African heads of state have argued that, unlike Eastern Europe under communism, economic reforms have already been introduced in a number of African countries where the pressure for an end to one-party rule is now being felt. "The point that you people in the West do not seem to grasp is that most of us have not got communism

to get rid of here," one African diplomat said.

In some post-independent nations, such as Angola and Mozambique, the one-party system did emerge as a result of guerrilla warfare which used Marxist ideology and military tactics to overthrow colonial powers. But in most cases it was imposed by a small clique anxious to retain a grip on power in the aftermath of the colonial struggle.

The ripple effect of Eastern Europe has come at a time of crippling economic difficulties besetting many African countries. The likelihood that Western nations and institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will increasingly channel aid to those countries most willing to introduce democratic reforms will increase the economic hardship in those where one-party or military dictatorship is most extreme.

The attempts to turn back the democratic tide have been remarkably similar. In Cameroon, the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement claimed that multi-party advocates were in the hands of foreign paymasters. Similar allegations have been made by Kenya's ruling party.

The one-party governments in Africa have so far survived the growing protest movements, often using ruthless internal security machines whose members were until recently trained by experts from East Germany, Romania and other former communist regimes. But the domino theory may quickly become reality once the first one-party leader is toppled.

US 'giving more aid to Unita'

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE United States has deployed military advisers with the Unita rebels inside Angola for the first time, Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem, the Angolan foreign minister, claimed in the Zimbabwean capital yesterday.

It is the first time in 15 years of American military assistance to Unita that the Angolan government has made such a claim. If proved true, it signifies a deep and potentially dangerous commitment by Washington to the Unita leader, Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Mr Van-Dunem would not offer firm evidence that American personnel were in the country, but promised that "when we capture them, we will present them to the press". Western diplomats warned against dismissing the claims out of hand.

His claim came shortly before the scheduled resumption of peace talks in Portugal between the governing and Unita on ending the 15-year civil war. It also coincided with a dramatic escalation in fighting in the north, which has led to the virtual encirclement of the capital, Luanda.

The minister confirmed Western reports of an important transfer of Unita's operations from the south, where it operated until last year with South African support, to the north where military shipments are moved from American military bases inside neighbouring Zaïre.

The *Washington Post* reported last month that US congressional intelligence committees had approved an additional \$10 million (\$5.6 million) in covert aid to Unita, supplementing the \$50 million already budgeted.

The minister said recent sabotage of power supplies, plus bombing attacks in Luanda, bore the marks of considerably more skill than usual Unita operations.

Liberians adjourn peace talks

FROM REUTERS IN FREETOWN

TWO days of talks to end the Liberian civil war ended yesterday without progress towards a ceasefire, but the rebels pledged to return to the negotiating table next week.

Thomas Woewiyu, the guerrillas' chief negotiator, said that there was "absolutely no ceasefire, no change in our military strategy" as he left the talks held in a seaside conference centre in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Mr Woewiyu said that the rebels would attend another session of the talks, being mediated by the Economic Community of West African States, next week. Abass Bundu, the community's executive secretary and the chief mediator, said that the talks would resume on Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the government delegation, which has been in Freetown since talks mediated by Liberian church leaders collapsed last month.

Rebels of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia, under Charles Taylor, have surrounded Monrovia in their attempt to topple President Doe. Mr Taylor has said he will take the capital by the end of the week.

Mr Doe, a former army sergeant who shot his way to power in a 1980 coup, is holed up in his heavily fortified mansion in Monrovia as the guerrillas push their way into the city.

Sources close to the president say that he has packed his bags and is ready to flee. The United States, Liberia's oldest ally, has offered to take him abroad but the sources say that he would prefer to go to his home region of Grand Gedeh county in eastern Liberia, a stronghold of his minority Krahn tribe.

More than 6,000 Liberians and foreigners have sought refuge in churches and embassies in Monrovia.

JOHANNESBURG NOTEBOOK by Gavin Bell

Welfare is just another name for anti-social security

When is a state-security apparatus not what it seems? When is it a social welfare organisation, according to the Pretoria government.

One of President de Klerk's first reforms last year was to abolish the National Management System (NMS), a mostly secret network of security committees. With a command structure independent of government, it had enormous influence during the era of P.W. Botha, the former president, and manipulated civilian politics through bogus community-relations projects and new businesses in black townships. Its demise was broadly welcomed.

In terms of his new strategy of talking to black activists, Mr de Klerk established the National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM). Run by civilians in his office, its declared aim is to switch the emphasis from security to welfare.

Not so, says James Sefse of the Democratic Party, who has exposed a parallel security committee led by the hawkish chief of the national intelligence service. He says the security forces have re-established their influence in the new system. Government officials

deny the NMS has been reincarnated. Jannie Roux, who runs the NCM, said: "There is no way the new system can be compared to the old. It cannot give orders."

By holding the moral high ground in politics, one runs the risk of being overwhelmed by covertists. Such is the dilemma of the liberal Democratic Party, which is being swept aside by the winds of change blowing from Pretoria. After a disastrous showing in a recent by-election, the party lost one of its three co-leaders this week when Wynand Malan announced his resignation. "What I have been working towards is now a reality. The political process is now irreversibly on the way towards a negotiated constitutional settlement," he said.

By a curious coincidence, a colleague in the Johannesburg city council resigned on the same day in protest against the Democratic Party allowing dual membership of the Broederbond, a secretive and influential Afrikaner society. He claimed the Broederbond was a racist organisation while the Democratic Party was just the opposite, and he found it in-



conceivable that anybody could belong to both. He referred in particular to Mr Malan.

A recent decision to halve the two-year initial period of compulsory military service may be closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand found last year that the number of graduates emigrating mainly to evade conscription is twice as high as shown in official

statistics. The annual average since 1980 has been 4,500, or 25 per cent, which has brought a severe shortage of doctors, lawyers, teachers and other professionals, each one representing £50,000 in lost productivity and tax revenues.

Fewer than half of Afrikaans-speaking final-year students and only 29 per cent of English speakers were prepared to serve in the armed forces. The remainder intended either to continue their studies or to emigrate.

South Africa, after being allowed to watch live television coverage of the World Cup finals for the first time, is optimistic of competing for a place in the 1994 series. Abdul Bhamjee, spokesman for the national soccer league, says he expects the new non-racial football administration now being created to be admitted to Fifa, the world controlling body, within a year. "I am confident we will be welcomed back with open arms. We have a unique situation here, with a tremendous blend of black flair and white discipline," he said.

As a prelude, he wants to invite Cameroon for a three-match tour

مركز من التحليل

should not be equated with the
 of undiluted Western partici-
 democracy. The ranks of the
 demonstrators on the streets of the
 have been swollen by a flood
 of opportunists.

some countries the ruling group
 a Burkina Faso, ruling coalition
 to remain, but with conditions
 to increase the choice for the
 With a more open ruling party or
 of parties, the presidency (or
 says contest) will be able to gain
 through patronage, media in-
 and a say in the formulation of
 for the new system. This president
 most unlikely to accept a genuine
 separation of powers between a gran-
 ve judiciary and legislature. Law
 like the security services accountable
 if introduce press freedom safeguards
 should not be on the agenda.

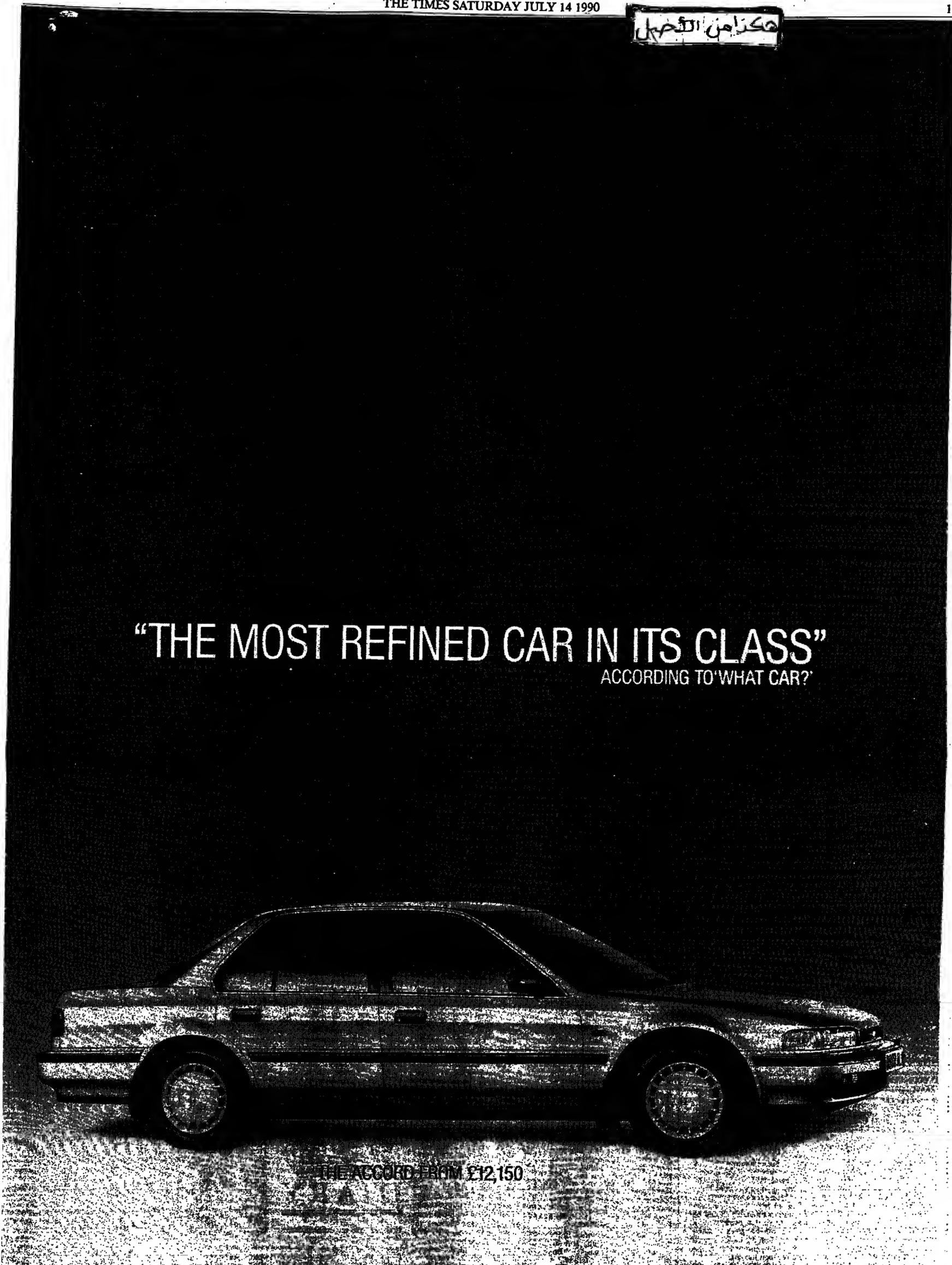
Political pluralism will thus have a
 long African road. But the rapid
 at a number of well known African
 leaders will find themselves discarded
 in much reduced circumstances.

members threat of ing unrest

...one African
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US 'giving more aid to Unita

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"THE MOST REFINED CAR IN ITS CLASS"
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What Car? went on to describe the Accord as "smooth and punchy." Auto Express talked of a car that was "fast, well equipped and spacious." And Autocar & Motor summed up Honda's new saloon as a "surefire recipe for success."

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Back-to-front reasoning

Clifford Longley

Christenings remain an important social and ceremonial part of the British way of life. A large proportion of the population turns to the Church of England to provide them, as it does for wedding and funeral services, so giving the church a constituency that other parts of its ministrations cannot reach.

Nobody in the church begrudges a church funeral, it seems, no matter how immoral or unbelieving the occupant of the coffin may have been. Except for the divorced, the clergy of the established church are obliged to marry anyone who meets the minimal legal requirements — which say nothing about believing anything in particular about marriage or religion — and no fuss is made about that either. But christenings, which the church prefers to call baptisms, have become deeply controversial. This is a service the church is in the process of withdrawing from the general community.

For a few moments at least, the York meeting of the General Synod last weekend looked about to embark on legislation to ban "indiscriminate" baptism, confining it to those who take it seriously as a rite of Christian initiation. Parents would have been required to make a solemn promise that they were willing and able to raise their child in the Christian faith, which, by implication, would have restricted christenings to the families of those who are regular members of local congregations.

But before battle had been properly joined, the synod was told that a report on the wider issues was almost ready for publication, and so was persuaded to take the matter no further for the time being. Yet the debate and the proposed legislation were signs of growing pressure within the church to put a stop to indiscriminate baptism. Sooner rather than later, that pressure will prevail. Already fewer than half the number of newly-born children are baptised into the Church of England. Indiscriminate baptism is an embarrassment not because it amounts to a public admission by the church that an important religious service may properly be used for purely social and conventional purposes by those who regard its religious content as meaningless. Many vicars refuse to officiate at christenings for non-believing families, and their refusal provokes many a storm in parish tearpots.

This is partly the church's own fault. The traditional doctrine of baptism has become meaningless for many inside the church too. There is general agreement only that baptism is a ceremony marking entry into the visible community of the church (which is why so much weight is placed on the importance of parents being regular worshippers). The traditional view was that baptism is far more profound and significant, but it

reflected beliefs that are now thoroughly out of fashion. For to believe in the traditional view, it was first necessary to believe in hell, damnation and the devil, in heaven and salvation, and in Christ's atoning sacrifice for sin. Those who still talk like that — except as a metaphor for life's hard knocks — are deemed to be such dyed-in-the-wool conservatives that they are right off the Anglican scale.

Traditionally, baptism was a washing away of original sin, a passage from spiritual death to spiritual life. The unbaptised did not go to heaven when they died, for they were still enslaved to Satan. Baptism was a permanent mark on the soul, showing which were God's own, even as the Israelites marked with blood the immunity of their homes from plague before the exodus from Egypt. To die unbaptised was a fearful thing. To be baptised was to join Christian civilisation.

Such deep feelings linger long, particularly in the rural areas of England and in the rural sub-conscious of the townsfolk. But they get little support from churchmen, who are inclined to treat them as superstitious. And they do dwindle into superstition when such notions are no longer related to Christian doctrine: not to have a child baptised, it is still widely believed, is to invite bad luck. This is folk religion because the church has moved away from what it originally taught about baptism, while ordinary people have hung on to it in a half-remembered and less-than-half-understood form. But they remember that baptism is a sacrament, while the church now remembers it only as a symbol.

Baptism is more than, even other than, the recruitment of a new member to the local parish church. Taken as merely that, it is meaningless, for no baby or small child can make a lifetime's religious commitment, least of all by the proxy voice of adult parents and godparents. The informed answer to a clergyman who refuses to allow a baptism unless the parents and godparents truly believe the words they have to say is to ask him whether he truly believes them himself. Does he believe in the doctrine of the devil? If traditional doctrine no longer meets the need, the answer is not to translate it into a merely sociological phenomenon that drains away the sacramental richness. That merely throws the font-water out with the baby. The answer is to dig deeper into the sources of doctrine, to find those levels of resonance which were always present but went unheard. Only by recovering a meaning for baptism more momentous than a scout's promise, more profound than putting a child's name down for Eton, will the church know what it is doing and what it ought to be doing. Meanwhile, indiscriminate baptism is as good a policy as any.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Bring in the crows to peck the eagles, says Coriolanus, speaking of the Roman equivalent of the media: the mob.

I admire Nicholas Ridley, but clear from your mind any suspicion that I agree with him. I don't like Germans. All this stuff about Jerry sounds crackers to me, but then President Kruger believed to the day he died in 1904 that the earth was flat. We each have our share of nutty ideas. Now we know Mr Ridley's. It gave us all a giggle.

But otherwise, so what? The important truth that Dominic Lawson has demonstrated about this man is that he is not circumspect. Circumspection being by a long chalk the naivest characteristic prevalent among our politicians, it is sad that this episode will encourage its spread.

Speaking for myself, if a journalist returned from interviewing the prime minister to report that halfway through lunch she had lunged at him declaring that she found him unbearably attractive, I should explain "She's human!" and nothing would ever again cloud my admiration for her. And, should he report that while chatting with Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader had drained his cup, stared into the dregs, and confessed that he never ventured out of doors before reading the newspaper in his tea leaves, I should treat Mr Kinnock with a new respect, because though I do not believe in tea leaves, I do believe in people who decide for themselves what they believe and don't care who knows it.

How despicable is our political culture! We whine that politicians are not frank. We grumble that MPs have become as alike as traffic-cones, tameny toeing the line. We grumble that you cannot get straight yes or no from a minister. We whimper that our leaders do not trust us enough to confide in us.

And then we spot a man like Ridley, out of line with the baby-kissing, vanilla-flavoured clones whom we affect to dislike — and what do we do? Rush at him like scavenging dogs and tear him limb from limb. "For the mutable, rank-scented

many, let them regard me — as I do not flatter — and therein behold themselves." — Coriolanus again. We castrate our politicians then complain that they have no balls. Like us.

As they come home to their safe seats, safe beds, and safe marriages, draw their security-net bedroom curtains and place their false teeth and their false opinions neatly in a glass of sterilising solution for an overnight soak, a score of ministers will tonight be thanking God that they are as other men are, and resolving to be even more careful than yesterday not to do or say or think anything unusual. "Every day and in every way, dear Lord," they pray, "help me to make British party politics more closely resemble synchronised swimming."

And thus does our modern media-driven Darwinism advance the evolution of the species: survival of the slickest. But there is a way out! The defensive instinct only buys time before the inevitable rout. Then to the attack! Henceforward, a timetable should be arranged so that every week a cabinet minister gives an interview to Dominic Lawson. Each will reveal opinions more incredible than the last.

Hot on the heels of news that John Major keeps a troupe of performing miniature poodles will come word that the Lord Chancellor would personally welcome a return of the ducking stool for witches. Amazelement will be overtaken by shock as the home secretary reveals that he has 60 children by a series of polygamous marriages. Shock will fade as we react to the foreign secretary's admission that he can't stand foreigners.

Each amazing outburst will be followed by a disclaimer from Downing Street, reminding us that ministers can say and do what they like in private: it is not a government policy. Each will be received with slightly less interest than the last.

The final test will come when Denis Thatcher tells *The Spectator* that his wife has always dreaded an invasion by creatures from outer space. "Maggie Tells of Little Green Men," the *Sunday Sport* will report. None of the other papers will bother.

Allan Massie believes Scotland craves what is being foisted on Northern Ireland

Mr Rifkind, please do a Brooke

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, will soon announce a new "political initiative". It is part of the job, but such initiatives are expressions of hope but of hopelessness. The situation is intolerable and unchanging; it cannot be allowed to go on as it looks like going on. So some initiative is necessary, if only to give the illusion of change.

Unlike Mr Brooke and his predecessors, Scottish secretaries exist to prevent initiatives. The majority in Ulster may be nervous about them, but the evidence suggests that the majority in Scotland would welcome one. Scotland has not had majority rule since 1979. At the last general election, the Conservatives attracted less than 25 per cent of the vote, and only 10 of the 72 Scottish MPs are Tories.

All the other parties are committed to constitutional reform, but there will be no initiative from the Tories. Of course this can be justified: Scotland, unlike Northern Ireland, is fully integrated into the British political system, and must abide by the result of British elections. The Tories fight elec-

tions in Scotland, which they lose, but not in Northern Ireland, where they might win.

In both Scotland and Northern Ireland the government's policy is consistent in one respect: it is founded on make-believe. In Ulster the government pretends that irreconcilable differences can be wished away by political initiatives; in Scotland it pretends that public dissatisfaction will disappear if it is ignored. This is a run way to carry on.

The Conservatives were not always indifferent to constitutional reform in Scotland. In the early 1970s they were ahead of Labour in promising devolution. Then — partly because of the fears of supporters in the business community, and partly because of the nature of Labour's proposals — they argued against Labour's devolution bills. But they still did not oppose the principle.

In the 1979 referendum, Lord Home advised Scots to vote "no" because the bill was flawed and the Conservatives would bring in a better one. In government, however, things were different; Mrs Thatcher thought of devolution as

a socialist policy. Her first secretary of state, George Younger, contrived to govern Scotland as Willie Ross had done under Harold Wilson, keeping Scottish matters as far as possible separate from business affecting Britain as a whole. It did not work. The Conservatives lost ground in the 1983 election.

In 1986, Younger was replaced by Malcolm Rifkind, a man of charm, energy and intelligence who is liked and admired even by opponents. But the 1987 election was a disaster. The Tory response was to offer more of the same. Scotland was to be given a crash course in Thatcherism. Rifkind, though a devolutionist in the 1970s, did not demur. Michael Forsyth, a Thatcherite zealot, became an under-secretary at the Scottish office, and then chairman of the party in Scotland. For a couple of years, these two defied the idea that government supported only by a handful of Scottish Tories would be impossible. The inability to man the select committee on Scottish affairs and its consequent abolition seemed to do the government no

harm. The Scottish economy was fairly buoyant, and the spirit of the party revived. The deliberations of the Scottish convention on the constitution were ignored, apparently with impunity.

In the last few weeks, things have come unstuck. The crash course may be heading for a crash landing. Rifkind's own position is imperilled. First came his blunder of failing to spot discrimination against Scotland in the budget over poll-tax refunds. Then came the evidence of his incompetence in the face of British Steel's announcement that its Ravenscraig mill was to close.

Finally there came the shambles of the Legal Reforms (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. This has been the most damaging and most significant episode, because it reveals the essential weakness of the Tory position. The damage has been done, not by the Opposition, but by the handful of Scottish Tory backbenchers, in particular by Allan Stewart, Bill Walker (vice-chairman of the Scottish party) and Sir Nicholas Fairbairn. What is significant is that all are staunch unionists, who have scorned pro-

posals for devolution. Yet they have opposed the bill from a nationalist standpoint, on the grounds that something fundamental to the Scottish identity, the separate and historic legal system, is being subjected to important reforms which are ill-considered and condescending, and which were not given sufficient debating time in committee. They have been behaving like Scottish Gaullists.

Their position is logically flawed, for they seem not to realise that they are effectively saying that these are matters for a properly representative Scottish parliament; but in arriving at the Gaullist position, they have adopted the only attitude which gives the Scottish Tories any hope of recovery. For that hope to be realised, there would have to be a political initiative of the type we are promised in Ulster, but it will not come this side of a general election. It may take the loss of another four or five seats to make a Conservative government realise that Scotland cannot be satisfactorily governed without constitutional reform.

Why the giant of Europe must expect some knocks

Daniel Johnson puts the Ridley affair in the context of a century of mutual admiration and resentment

Nothing could be more childish than to dismiss Nicholas Ridley's lampooning of Germany in *The Spectator* as the product of English eccentricity or, like the West German liberal leader Count Otto Lambsdorff, to accuse him of being drunk. A Prussian *Junker* who lost a leg in battle in 1944, when the Nazi cause was already hopeless, Count Lambsdorff knows better than most that Hitler and Auschwitz are never far from the surface of German public life.

Just a year before the Berlin Wall was breached, the Speaker of the Bundestag, Philipp Jenninger, was forced to resign after a speech which was thought much too kind to those who followed Hitler. Many Germans privately agreed with every word; yet they acquiesced in the resignation. Like Jenninger, Ridley is both a scapegoat and a conduit.

National stereotypes accompany the more complex harmonies of historical reality, in a deeper register. For 40 years, the British have treated the Germans with a healthy respect, only occasionally mingled with resentment at their greater commercial success. Hostile sentiments have been dissipated in the fantasies of war films and comic strips. To expect this easy-going attitude to remain indifferent or uncritical towards German reunification and its consequences is unreasonable.

Like the post-1945 period, the mid-19th century was marked by mutual German-British admiration. The British regarded the first German unification of modern times in 1871 with equanimity. Palmerston did nothing to prevent it, though like the politicians of the present he thought the obstacles would prove insuperable. Carlyle, George Eliot, Arnold and Acton had elevated the reputation of German culture and thought. Their enthusiasm was reciprocated by enlightened Germans such as Baron Bunsen and Prince Albert. It was the incubation time for many of the liberal ideas —



such as federalism and the *Rechtsstaat* (state of laws) — which were much later to be revived by the architects of the present Federal Republic.

But as the American scholar Charles McClelland demonstrated in *The German Historians and England*: "Once the Germans established their commonwealth in 1871... the English ideal became superfluous." The era of high imperialism generated an Anglo-German rivalry so intense that even the international royal network, which had maintained good relations since the Hanoverian accession, ultimately failed. Kaiser Wilhelm II, raised to a caricature of an English gentleman, became implacably hostile when his neurotic love of England remained unrequited.

In both world wars, each nation turned the very characteristics it had most wanted to emulate into hateful abuse. The Germans, whose trade and industry owed everything to "Manchester liberalism", now sneered at the British as decadent, hypocritical misers. The British became persuaded that the nation of Beethoven and Einstein was now populated entirely by atavistic automatons.

The division of Germany enabled the West Germans to profit from this Manichean image: they were the "good Germans", while the goose-stepping heirs of the Nazis were instantly recognizable in East Germany. A united Germany must reckon with the loss of this convenient diversion. Germans can no longer expect the kid-glove treatment dictated by their allies' need to support them as the front-line of the West.

The future of the Soviet Union is uncertain, and the German relationship with Moscow remains of cardinal importance for the balance of power in the new Europe. If Russia retreats into nationalistic introspection, the Germans will have no rivals for influence from the Danube to the Baltic. Though German trade is still Western-orientated, as it was in the 19th century, the markets of

the East are already attractive for German capital.

Well before reunification became more than a pious hope, the danger of "German megalomania" was the subject of debate in West German intellectual circles. Politicians like Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Bonn's foreign minister, began to assume a new, messianic role as the saviours of the nations from the cold war.

Almost every German pronouncement on grand diplomacy is couched in metaphysical terms, and these have lately permeated joint Western communiqués too. At the heart of this eschatology lies the Wagnerian idea that the healing of Germany's wound will mean that Europe, too, becomes whole again. The Germans have a

special duty, because they were responsible for Europe's martyrdom, to bring about peace in our time. The old warlike imagery has been inverted — not the Germans, nor even the Russians, but Mrs Thatcher and the British are now seen as belligerent — but a divine aureole still shimmers above Germania.

Johannes Gross, the Cologne columnist who is among the most cold-blooded living anatomists of the German psyche, has a less exciting verdict: the end of the German question, he declares, means the end of Germany's uniqueness. German politics, he believes, will now be subsumed into European politics. But if the tragic era of German history has come to an end, as so many

German intellectuals likewise lamented after 1871: will the mission to computerise *Mittel Europa*, to stamp the whole continent with "made in Germany", suffice for the next generation?

Alfred Herrhausen, the omnipotent head of the Deutsche Bank who was murdered by terrorists last year, struck me as the archetypal modern German when I talked to him in Moscow in 1988, after he and Mr Gorbachev had signed a £1 billion loan agreement. His urbane, slightly cynical intelligence, his muscular good looks, his cosmopolitan culture were deeply impressive. In some ways he was a more powerful man than Helmut Kohl, and he deserved to be. Only later did I learn that Herrhausen had attended one of the special schools where the Nazis had hoped to train their future élite. History is hard to escape, even for the middle-aged, even for the young.

If Germany is to hold the balance of power in the new Europe, will the values that it exports continue to draw on the heroic, muted nationalism which Adenauer, Brandt and Kohl have all embodied? There is no sign yet that the surfeit of ideology from which the Germans suffered in the first half of the century has worn off. There have been West German renaissances of anti-democratic thinkers like Nietzsche and even of Nazi ones like Carl Schmitt; but these are largely confined to the seminar rooms. Reunification has dealt a severe blow to the left-wing intelligentsia in both Germanies which, unlike Marx himself, has tried to present all nationalism as demonic.

What made the extreme ideologies of the 1920s so lethal for the Weimar Republic, though, was not their prevalence: it was the hypertrophied sense of grievance. At present the Germans have little to complain of, but that will not stop them complaining. The Ridley affair, like similar robust criticism in the American or Soviet press and Mrs Thatcher's occasional sallies, may have touched the Germans' permanently exposed nerve. Now so close to squaring both the super-powers, Helmut Kohl is not going to let the British give him history lessons. While we smoke a Churchillian cigar, they see only Mr Chamberlain's sorry old gamp.

Travelling on demand

Labour politicians who spend most of their time attacking the evils of the poll tax have finally found an opportunity to put it to good use. Sir Dick Knowles, the Labour leader of Birmingham city council, has long been plagued by an illegal gypsy encampment in his Sparkbrook ward — part of Roy Hattersley's parliamentary constituency.

He had tried every trick in the book to banish them, and his efforts grew increasingly impatient with every failure. A personal appeal led to a colourful suggestion as to what he could do with his chain of office. As a last resort — "Normally I would not wish it on my worst enemy" — he turned to that hated symbol of Thatcherite injustice and sent in the poll tax inspectors. Within minutes of their arrival, the gypsies were on the move.

But Knowles's success may spell fresh difficulties for Nicholas Ridley, one of the most enthusiastic Tory supporters of the charge. "The gypsies were last seen heading in the direction of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, my old friend Nick Ridley's constituency," says Knowles. "I'm sure he will be happy to accommodate them."

Bread and wine party

As Christ a vegetarian? The question is currently causing schism in the Vatican, where a new book by a Catholic priest famous for inviting his congregations to bring their own meat insists that meat was definitely off the menu at the Last

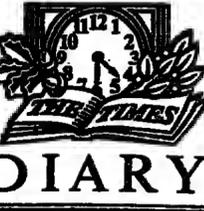
Supper. Monsignor Mario Canciani says in *Religions and Animals in Noah's Ark* that Christ officially abolished the sacrifice of the pasover lamb at the Last Supper. He shunned meat, even the traditional paschal lamb, says the book, while the apostles Peter, James and John followed his vegetarian example. Monsignor Canciani has now started a campaign to abolish church readings from the Book of Exodus describing the sacrifice of the lamb.

Other priests are inclined to scoff. "We don't know what was on the menu at the Last Supper," says Father Christopher Cunningham, of St Etheldreda's church in Holborn. "We haven't had a copy of the bill." What can hardly be denied is that Christ enjoyed a little fish with his loaf and was no teetotaler. Perhaps Monsignor Canciani's next work will tell us whether the water that turned into wine became red or white.

Last Haw-Haw

Insight is a wonderful thing, and after more than a century of complaints about omissions from *The Dictionary of National Biography*, Dr Christine Nichols, the present editor, is to produce by 1993 a volume chronicling the lives of 1,250 neglected worthies. More than 900 experts have been commissioned to write biographies of those who slipped through the net, including Lilie Langtry, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Wilfred Owen, Eric Liddell, the runner restored to public attention by *Chariots of Fire*, and Mrs Beeton.

"Many people become famous after their death, so it's important to include them now," explains



Nichols. "We are even including Patrick Pearse and James Connolly, who played a prominent part in the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin. Anyone who made an impact, whether for good or bad, ought to be included." Despite this principle, Lord Shawcross, a prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, has refused to contribute a piece on William Joyce, the traitor who became Germany's favourite wartime propagandist, Lord Haw-Haw. As attorney-general in the immediate post-war period, Shawcross prosecuted Joyce and says he strongly disapproves of "rogues and traitors" being included in the dictionary. The *DNB* disagrees, and Dr Nichols has recruited an academic to do the job. "You can't rewrite history," she says.

Lord Justice Staughton raised a few eyebrows in the Law Courts this week when, in a written judgment on an insurance dispute, he referred to thousands of pounds as "k". Legal watchers say it is the first recorded use of yuppie-speak by a senior judicial figure. One years for the days when judges lean across the bench to inquire, "What exactly is a discotheque?"

Force of habit

As the Arts Council prepares to move in, the Westminster building formerly occupied by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has been given a comprehensive facelift. One memorial to its former occupants will remain, however. Four floors up, set into the corner of the building's exterior, stands a 3ft statue of a mendicant. With hand expectantly outstretched towards Conservative Central Office in Smith Square, the figure will make an



It's to save the fabric of my heritage, says the man.

Personally... Art punters may be unhappy with the erratic prices obtained by the major auction houses, but to try and sell two Van Goghs through the small ads of *The Times* seems to be taking disaffection too far. On Thursday Dr Christopher Hertzog, Emsworth, Hampshire, paid £40 for the following message: "Van Gogh: Private sale

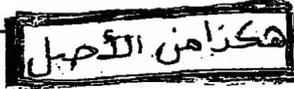
of two very valuable original paintings. 0243 374538". Dr Hertzog told those who rang that he wants £14 million for one and £8.42 million for the other, but for security reasons would not disclose the titles. Logic might have suggested that it should be the other way round, but no matter.

Hertzog described himself to callers as a "practitioner in alternative medicine" and said that he was merely a middle-man who had been approached "because of my contacts in the art world". Anyone ringing the number yesterday to offer £22.4 million found themselves talking to an unlikely saleswoman in the form of Dr Hertzog's mother-in-law, who is somewhat hard of hearing. She admitted her connection with the doctor, but said she had no idea when he would return, and knew nothing about any paintings.

On hearing the news that further works by the world's most expensive artist were up for sale, Michel Strauss, resident impressionist expert at Sotheby's, reacted with total scepticism. He had not rung Hertzog, he said, and has intention of doing so.

Because of a hitch in getting a passport, the black South African poet Mzwakhe Mbuli could not appear in person at Hammer-smith's Riverside Studios for his first public reading in Britain. But the audience of 100, who had paid £6 a head, were not too disappointed. "We telephoned Mzwakhe in South Africa," says a reader his spokesman, "and he read his poems down the line." It was so clear that not one syllable of the "live performance" was lost. More on Maureen Lipman: it sounds like a must for British Telecom's next TV advert.

مكاتبنا في لندن



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

GORBACHEV'S PARTY TRICK

The 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party, originally convened by Mikhail Gorbachev in the hope of making the party the springboard for political reform, began with a remarkable outpouring of diehard resentment against Mr Gorbachev. If one man encapsulated the delegates' mood, it was Yegor Ligachev, whose denunciations of private property and the market economy and defence of Marxism-Leninism won him standing ovations. Yet his bid for the deputy leadership ended in humiliation, defeated one to five by Mr Gorbachev's nominee Vladimir Ivashko, a colourless apparatchik from the Ukraine who has resigned the republic's presidency to take the deputy's job.

The defeat of the hardline faction headed by Mr Ligachev, coupled with the resignation of Boris Yeltsin and the announced breakaway of the small reformist Democratic Platform, leaves the party more ideologically cohesive, but weaker and more manageable. Mr Gorbachev's decision to stay as general secretary is due less to optimism in the party's ability to regenerate itself, than to his calculation that it is still powerful. Its boss matters.

How long that is true depends on two things: Mr Gorbachev's use of his new presidential powers, and developments in the soviets of the republics. He was forced to compromise on details, such as the deletion of the word "market" from the party's commission for economic reform. These were footnotes: this congress, for all the hostile rhetoric, approved by a large majority changes in the way Soviet power is exercised. Mr Gorbachev dressed them up as essential "for the authority of the party to grow", but in practice they will ease the party's relegation to the sidelines of policymaking.

The party nomenclatura still permeates industry and the bureaucracy, and ending that domination (and power to obstruct reforms) will require time. But the party has ceded much to the state in this, the first serious battle in the war for control of the country. The mayors of Moscow and Leningrad have resigned their party cards. For the first time, it is now possible for the Soviet Union to be governed without the Communist Party, through the presidential council, the government, and the Soviet congress of people's deputies.

The politburo has for some time ceased to be the undisputed power centre of the Soviet

Union. But this has now been underlined by the decision of Vladimir Kryuchkov, head of the KGB, and of two of Mr Gorbachev's closest and most astute allies, Aleksandr Yakovlev and the foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, to give up their seats. The politburo is expected to meet only about once a month - too infrequently to impinge on the presidential council's decisions. The central committee, the traditional power base of the apparatchiks, has also lost the keys to its power: the right to elect the politburo and the party leader now rests exclusively with the party congress, which Mr Gorbachev has proved his power to manipulate.

The party has not only lost its monopoly of power at the top, but at the level of party cells. The party will continue to organise in the KGB, the army and the factories - but other parties will in theory have similar rights. Radicals would have liked to abolish these cells, but a first step has been taken. There are already signs of grassroots contempt for the commissars - factories have been busy disbanding the party cells - which can only be enhanced by this ending of their monopoly on political mobilisation. What these changes, taken together, mean is that people will now be able to rise to positions of power without depending on preferment through the party machine.

These are considerable gains for the reformers, even if they do not ensure multi-party democracy than do the decisions by Mr Yeltsin and most of the hundred or so members of the Democratic Platform to split away from the party. Grassroots defections from the party will accelerate following Mr Yeltsin's defection. Building a new party, or parties, is a different matter. The appointment yesterday of a noted hardliner as political chief of the armed forces demonstrates the determination of the party's power-brokers not to give up without a fight.

The paradox is that by deciding to continue to preside over the party he has skillfully begun to emasculate - a decision for which the radicals revile him - Mr Gorbachev may have given the democrats the space they need to build the foundations of an alternative, pluralistic, political structure. Yet by remaining at the head of a party which has, these past weeks, done everything to discredit itself with the Soviet electorate, he has taken a gamble with his own political career.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE

London is in trouble and heading for more, according to the Henley Centre's forecast of the capital's likely prospects in the next decade. The Centre finds the capital's economy is out of balance, and too many of the common facilities, public transport most obviously, inadequate for the load imposed. For these and other reasons, more and more companies have been moving their businesses away from London. Since its peak of nearly nine million, Greater London has declined to some 6.78 million today.

No longer is the capital the only metropolitan engine driving the country forward. London's loss has been the rest of Britain's gain. The balance between London and the provinces has shifted in the latter's favour. If a London depression automatically depressed the rest of the country, the prospect would be serious. If anything, the opposite is the case.

In the last five years 28 major companies have left London, 23 of them settling elsewhere in the southeast. Put off by the capital's congestion and high costs, they have gone in search of a better quality of life. The other big cities of Britain have at last started to compete.

Glasgow is making the most of its grandiloquent new title: "European city of culture". Birmingham, with its own Royal Ballet, exhibition centre and new £27 million concert hall, can hardly wait to become the Arts Council's first British "city of culture" next year. Cardiff, Inverness, Carlisle, Warrington, Northampton and Leeds are among some 30 other centres showing signs of prosperous redevelopment. Their success is due to imaginative local effort.

Vigorous public relations campaigns throughout the regions, in Wales and Scotland,

have brought domestic, as well as Japanese and American, investment. Nor is such a provincial drift confined to Britain. Madrid has its Barcelona; Rome its Milan; Bonn its Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg; Berlin its Dresden and Leipzig; while Paris, less emphatically, its Lyons. A more even spread of prosperity and culture throughout a grossly over-centralised modern state should be welcomed. Opinion polls show that most people hanker after village life. Telecommuting - linking with city centres by modem rather than by motorway - will, the Henley Centre predicts, be common by the end of this century.

The naive reaction to this trend is for Londoners instantly to demand vast public expenditure to keep London big or make it bigger - as recommended by the Henley Centre. To be sure, there are specific improvements which London needs and which appear to have been overlooked in the recent aversion to metropolitan government. Londoners may lack the self-assertiveness of New Yorkers or Parisians, but most of them care enough about their city to be ashamed of its shabbiness and discomforts. In particular, the state of public transport in London and the filth of its public spaces is a scandalous comment on one of Toryism's less appealing enthusiasms, private affluence amid public squalor.

But London has always benefited by the free flow of market forces, in people, in goods and services, in lifestyle and fashion. If there really is a drift away from the capital, so much the better for those left behind. If other cities are challenging London's prominence in culture, finance, transport and politics, well and good. Long live the competition: it is the best route to long live London.

OF PIKE AND MEN

At the behest of Hyde Park officials, anglers have netted some 40 prime pike from the Serpentine and moved them to a new residence in the Thames. Their purpose was to save ducklings from the pike and at the same time provide good sport on the river.

Mother Nature may have different ideas. An alternative outcome of this unwarranted interference is that the Serpentine could be over-run by ducks while the Thames will be systematically stripped of fish - except for 40 sleek and predatory monsters and their offspring. Who put the pike in the lake in the first place anyway? People play around with nature at their peril.

Not since Robert Burns ploughed up a mouse and worried his neighbours by starting a conversation with it, has mankind been so concerned about ecology. Unfortunately the capacity to cause upset has more than kept pace with those good intentions. Take the case of the gamekeepers in the West Midlands. They pumped a dead bird full of a banned pesticide to kill a fox who was gobbling up their pheasants. Their bag included not only a gundog but a rare red kite (one of 11 imported from Sweden to this country) and they paid for their misdeed in court. Brer Fox is presumably laughing fit to kill.

The beasts of the field have worked out their own pecking order. As long as nobody interferes, it works. A succession of mild winters means more greenery, but it also means more ladybirds to eat them. Cats catch small birds which pick up spiders who enmesh bluebottles whose maggots eat whatever is lying around. He who treads on an ant is standing on someone's lunch.

Man has not yet learnt his place in all this.

When he spent all his time hunting down mammoth and clubbing them to death with flintstone axes, nature no doubt kept him in mind in all its planning. His behaviour was predictable: he killed only for food or clothing. Those creatures not fated for his menu or wardrobe could carry on their carnage undisturbed.

Nature must have been puzzled when man started to farm, keep pets, kill for sport, rescue ducks from pikes, or treat Swedish red kites like the Crown Jewels. Man's mistake was not to tell nature he had overruled it. The rabbits ate his crops, foxes stole his chickens and others continued to take his fish - unaware that the odd-looking fellow in tweeds and wellingtons, standing 200 yards downstream in pouring rain was more or less in charge, or so he thought.

Nature will clearly require several millennia of mutation once again to get the better of mankind. Birds still overfly Italy in the spring, foxes still risk their necks in hen runs. Rare British birds have yet to learn to build their nests beyond homo sapiens' reach, and up to 50,000 of their eggs are stolen every year, usually by grown men who would be more gainfully employed in spotting trains.

People feed pigeons (then complain when these proliferate); keep pet snakes (which escape among the runner beans); rear grouse then shoot them, send greyhounds coursing after hares. Their latest effort of a helping hand to nature is to save ducks from pike, successfully, and to save kites from foxes, less so. Sooner or later natural selection could catch up, but only if man would stop interfering. Otherwise the pike-proof duck, the fox-proof kite, will never evolve at all.

Rumpus over Ridley puts the spotlight on Europe

From Mr J. A. McK. Holloway
Sir, Mr Ridley's remarks may clearly portray the true feelings of many of those people who fear continental European influence. Anyone who crosses the Channel will quickly recognise the greater level of improvements in infrastructure and prosperity over there relative to us.

Conversations with lawyers will reveal the existence of a level of protection of the individual greater than here, accompanied by a much easier and affordable system of access to legal remedies. Their education system and bureaucracy recognize the value of the technically trained so that their economies are more vibrant and forward-looking than ours.

Planning involving all important interests is a regular feature of the strategic political process over there and is not hampered by the same degree of bureaucratic secretiveness which is evident here.

I think my future, as an individual at least, is probably better protected by the EC than by representatives of the old aristocracies whose interests may lie in keeping hold of their own substantial share of the national cake.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. McK. HOLLOWAY,
Holloway's Orchard,
Hartlip, Kent.
July 13.

From Mr J. O. May
Sir, For the Prime Minister to say, as she did in the House of Commons today, that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has unreservedly withdrawn his outrageous remarks in *The Spectator* interview, and that he had not reflected the Government's views, is simply not good enough.

That a senior cabinet minister should publicly make such insulting and intemperate remarks about this country's two main partners in the Community and get away with an apology would inevitably be regarded by large numbers of people, here and abroad, as proof that HM Government is deeply divided in its attitude towards meaningful co-operation with our Community partners.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. MAY,
6 Millbridge Close,
Cobham, Surrey.
July 12.

From Mr Graham Kelly
Sir, Mr Ridley's comments to *The Spectator* were shocking enough, but even more distressing were some of the comments I have heard on the radio, which were, at best, evenly divided between

those appalled by the remarks and those who thought that they were a true reflection of British sentiment towards the Community in general and the Germans in particular.

Having lost a brother in the war and working as I do for a Community institution, I am well qualified to understand both points of view. What I cannot understand, or condone, is the narrow-mindedness of people who cannot see the fundamental reality of today - that no nation in the Community could survive economically outside it.

Britain is fortunate to be a member of a club which is growing in importance and stature every day and it ill behoves a government minister to level schoolboy jibes either at another member or at the duly appointed officers of the club.

Regarding Mr Ridley's remark that the mark is likely to remain strong because of German "habits" - how right he is. Once upon a time the pound could be relied on because of British "habits" and I, for one, would be delighted to see their return.

Yours etc.,
GRAHAM KELLY,
290 Chaussee de Malines,
1970 Wezenbeek-Oppeem,
Belgium.
July 13.

From Sir Kenneth Lewis
Sir, It is always sad but not surprising that so many in politics today at Westminster seem to be much more interested in securing government office than sticking to a point of view they clearly hold on important issues. It must be even more surprising when this applies to a minister who withdraws comments he expressed so firmly and with such deliberate colour that he must clearly still believe them.

When, quite soon, the crunch comes on which way Europe develops, and if this is not favourable to the views of either Mr Nicholas Ridley or Mrs Thatcher but is accepted by the cabinet, who then resigns?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEWIS,
Redlands, Preston,
Oakhurst, Rutland.
July 12.

From Mr William Kings
Sir, I am a British subject who works for a major British company and has lived in West Germany since 1974. Over the years I have seen Britain stand up, on several occasions, for principles which have, in the long term, proved to be right.

On the other hand, there has been a consistent impression that

the country is a reluctant European. (I almost wrote "we", but after so long in the heart of Europe I cannot identify with this feeling).

Do people not understand that our future lies in a strong Europe? The continued prestige that Mrs Thatcher so longs for for Britain can only be maintained in the long term by everybody committing themselves to a united continent.

Yours faithfully,
W. KINGS,
An Eckbusch 55a,
D-5600 Wuppertal 1,
West Germany.
July 13.

From Mr John Stobart
Sir, Might it not be that Mr Ridley, in his recent interview, was voicing the feelings and even convictions of many thousands of people in this country who have memories and knowledge of more than the last 40 years, and are thereby becoming increasingly uneasy by some of the recent trends in Europe?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOBART,
24 Finborough Road, SW10.
July 13.

From Mr J. L. Nightingale
Sir, As a boy I was taught the following verse:

Boys flying kites haul in their white winged birds,
You can't do that when you are flying words.
Thoughts unexpressed may often fall back dead,
But God Himself can't stop them when they've said.

Yours truly,
J. LESLIE NIGHTINGALE,
1 Haddon Close,
Rushden, Northamptonshire.
July 12.

From Miss M. H. Coffman
Sir, I support Nicholas Ridley, intemperate or not. We were asked whether we wished to join a common market for our goods, not a common country to which we would have to surrender our freedom and individuality.

Yours faithfully,
M. COFFMAN,
Crown Cottage,
12 Leicester Road,
Grobby, Leicestershire.
July 13.

From Mr Alan Curnow
Sir, Nicholas Ridley is a sanctimonious hypocrite, an arrogant nonentity, a time-serving beneficiary of patronage and a downwardly-mobile disaster area On reflection, I unreservedly withdraw these remarks.

Yours politically,
ALAN CURNOW,
37 Cecil Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
July 12.

Training in prisons

From Lord Mishcon and others
Sir, As Lord Justice Woolf begins to take evidence on the underlying causes of the disturbances at Strangeways and elsewhere, we write to express our concern at the lack of available work and training in our penal institutions.

At Strangeways, more than 300 sentenced prisoners were permanently unemployed and a lack of workshop places means that few or no remand prisoners have the opportunity to work. Only just over a third of the inmate population at Manchester is engaged in any work. The picture elsewhere is little better.

We cannot continue to tolerate a system which discharges ex-prisoners with few or no skills and work experience into the community, giving them little chance of gaining employment but every chance of joining the majority of adult males who then reoffend within two years of leaving prison.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR MISHCON,
DEREK EZRA,
LIONEL MURRAY,
SAINSBURY, ADDINGTON,
House of Lords.
July 11.

Quebec's future

From Professor Robertson Davies
Sir, As a Canadian of long descent I think I speak for many of my kind when I say how deeply distressed we should be if the present breakdown in constitutional discussions led to a separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada. On two previous occasions, at the time of the American Revolution, and later during the war of 1812, Quebec was given a chance to leave Canada and refused to do so. We hope that if such a decision were put to the whole population of the province, rather than to the people in a few large cities, it would be declined.

Canadians as a whole value Quebec as a part of our complex society because of its individuality and outlook, and for the invaluable contribution it makes to our country's artistic life, to single out only one element that makes Quebec important to us. Disagreements between old friends should not bring about permanent ruptures.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERTSON DAVIES
(Founding Master),
Massey College,
University of Toronto,
4 Devonshire Place,
Toronto M5S 2E1, Canada.
July 3.

Language teaching

From Sir Horace Phillips
Sir, In the context of the current debate on foreign-language teaching in Britain (leading article, June 27; letters, July 3, 12) it may be of interest to know how things are done at Bilkent University in Ankara, where I am a lecturer in diplomacy and international relations.

English is the medium of instruction there in all subjects except Ottoman constitution and law. Knowledge of the language in the student body of nearly 5,000

As we approach 1992, businesses will increasingly require access to skilled labour and will be less able to afford the costs of unproductive imprisonment and rising crime. Businesses could and should play a part in improving employment opportunities within prisons. In particular, there may be a role for training and enterprise councils in exploring ways in which the work and training offered in prisons in their areas can be improved with private-sector assistance.

The Woolf enquiry offers a unique opportunity for a thorough examination of prison regimes. Let us now hope that the provision of meaningful work for inmates is one of its first recommendations for action.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR MISHCON,
DEREK EZRA,
LIONEL MURRAY,
SAINSBURY, ADDINGTON,
House of Lords.
July 11.

Unfurnished flats

From Mr Nicholas C. Cummins
Sir, The availability of unfurnished flats or houses to let is a common denominator in the national prosperity of most developed countries, except in Britain. Here, due to anachronistic rent acts that have since been modified, landlords continue to feel that they must offer "fully furnished" flats or houses, rather than unfurnished ones.

This adversely affects the mobility of labour nationwide, as many prefer to take their own furniture with them. From my long and futile search for a small unfurnished flat to let I have found that the problem clearly is one where market custom and psychology has not caught up to benevolent changes in the law.

One easy solution would be for newspapers to list separately furnished and unfurnished lettings, as is done in other countries. That would alert both landlords and tenants to an alternative way of letting that would benefit everyone, and simultaneously ease both employment and housing dislocation.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. CUMMINS,
47 Meriden Court,
Chelsea Manor Street, SW3.
July 6.

Political reforms

From Mr Paul Farthing
Sir, The initiative outlined by Robert Maclean, MP ("Writing on the constitutional wall", July 6) is a brave move. The Liberal Democrats have published not only a written constitution for Britain, but also a timetable for its realisation. This significantly develops the argument for a modern democracy for Britain.

But while the document is called "We, the people . . . Towards a Written Constitution" in fact the people play little part in its proposed model, which excludes direct participation, and remains deeply parliamentary. Change of the scale proposed by Mr Maclean, however, demands citizens actively revitalising the democratic process. While political parties neglect this, reforms put forward by them are unlikely to represent the wishes of "the people" or carry the authority they need to succeed.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FARTHING,
107 Richmond Hill Court,
Richmond, Surrey.
July 10.

De minimis

From Mr Antony W. Atkins
Sir, Some years ago I needed some small bronze washers for a boat and was told by a local hardware shop that if they could be obtained they would cost 5p each. I ordered 20 but cancelled the order when I found that the newly-withdrawn 1p coin measuring approximately 17mm x 1mm, was the size I wanted.

What, I wonder, was the production cost difference between a disc with a hole in it and the redundant smallest coin of the realm, which I was to deface at a saving of 90p?

Yours faithfully,
A. W. ATKINS,
St Nicholas Cottage,
Leeds, Maidstone, Kent.

From Mrs Iris Hill
Sir, Mr Ben Morland (July 6) can add a fourth reason for the new 5p piece: the Christmas pudding.

Yours faithfully,
IRIS HILL,
Fair View, Carmarthen Road,
Newcastle-Emlyn, Dyfed.
July 6.

The performance of both sexes of undergraduates in English in class and in written examination would outdo most British students' efforts in foreign languages. I share Mr Ramsay's view that the latter might do better if they had the advantage of sustained exercise with native speakers brought in for the purpose.

Yours faithfully,
HORACE PHILLIPS,
34a Sheridan Road,
Merton Park, SW19.

Future of music college training

From the Principal of Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Sir, In his article on the training of musicians (Arts, July 3) Richard Morrison asked a number of pertinent questions about the provision of music teaching throughout the educational system. While the advent of the National Curriculum - with music one of the core subjects - will surely address the work to be done in schools, what is disappointing in the recent Gorriv report (details, June 20) on the future of music college training in London is that it fails properly to address what the conservatoires should be doing. It is long on received opinion and short on practical wisdom.

It also failed to do any more than throw a passing reference to the other major music college in London - the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. This is a missed opportunity because the conservatoire world is so small and too important to omit other major players from such a discussion.

The contribution of the GSMD to a debate on the purpose of conservatoire training would have been thus: while one role is certainly to train musicians to the highest level of performing achievement, it is also, fundamentally, to train musicians (as opposed to technical whizz-kids) who are flexible in both attitude and ability to the community in which they are to serve.

This flexibility needs to come as soon as they start their studies. This is why we have introduced for all our music undergraduates the development of performance and communication skills, and the response to this from a wide range of the musical community, in both this country and abroad, indicates that there is a genuine desire to see the role of the musician in a much wider context than has hitherto been the case.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HORSBRUGH, Principal,
Guildhall School of Music and Drama,
Barbican, EC2.
July 9.

Summoned by bells

From Mr Christopher Groome

Sir, The publicity wrought by eight people ringing the bells at towers around the Lincoln diocese, without obtaining proper permission, is an isolated incident (report, July 4). Steps are being taken to identify the culprits. Such publicity spoils the enjoyment of visiting churches around the British Isles for the other 35,000 or so bell-ringers, who follow a code of behaviour.

The 1988 Survey on Bell Ringing revealed that there are approximately 5,200 rings of five or more bells in the British Isles; 63 per cent are rung regularly on Sundays, 7 per cent are unringable and 30 per cent have insufficient rings to be able to call people to worship on Sundays.

The Central Council of Church Bellringers is keen to attract lapsed and new people to ringing. Often referred to as campanology, it is a blend of sport, music, exercise, friendship, a challenge to one's wit and skill, wonderful satisfaction when "you get it right" and a service to the church.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GROOME
(President, Central Council of Church Bellringers),
22 Duke Street,
Burton Latimer,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.

From the Reverend Arundel Barker

Sir, One of the greatest reliefs on my retirement from the parochial ministry this year has been to get away from the responsibility for bell towers and what you call "tower-grabbers" and their over-bearing rudeness when the church council refuses them permission to ring bells for one reason or another.

When I moved to my retirement home, chosen partly because of my interest in playing golf, I found that to become five-day members at the local course would cost my wife and me £750 for the first year. We would, of course, have to provide our own clubs and balls.

In view of the fact that bell-ringing in one tower can only be practised by one team at a time and that the participants provide none of the equipment, what do people consider would be a fair annual subscription for regular "club" members and/or visitors?

Yours faithfully,
ARUNDEL BARKER,
7 Bull Farm Mews, Bull Lane,
Matlock, Derbyshire.

Sweet nothings

From Mr Paul Lewis

Sir, John Amis (July 9) succeeded in halving John Cage's 4'33" of total silence (Diary, June 27) by the simple expediency of two performers at one piano.

This reminds me of Stravinsky's reputed remark to a journalist, following the premiere of this work, that he looked forward to a far more extensive work from John Cage, modelled along the same lines.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL LEWIS,
Flat 6, Cecil Court,
2 Accl Road,
West Hamstead, NW6.
July 9.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

Alice joins the labour party

WHEN I woke from a deep sleep with the sound of bells in my ears, I assumed the strain of farmwork was beginning to show. True, we had had a busy couple of weeks. Killing weeds amid the turnips and the kale. With chemicals it would have been done in a day, but I prefer a horse-drawn hoe. It is effective and pollutes nothing, being no more than a blade that the horse drags between the rows of plants to chop off the weeds just below the surface.

The snag is that it involves two men (or one man and a deeply reluctant wife) and a lot of walking. If you are the unlucky one who gets to lead the horse, you are effectively standing next to a perspiring 10 Kw radiator, you leave the field sodden with your own sweat and a few gallons of the horse's. So I assumed, hearing bells in the night, that the hoeing had drained me.

Then the chime rang out again. It was half past two. Wide awake now, I flew to the bedroom window. In the moonlight I could just make out the pregnant shape of Alice, our Large Black pig, making frenzied music with her feeding bowls.

Pig troughs are no lightweight affairs: they are cast-iron rings which it takes two men to lift. But Alice has been blessed with a power-packed snout, and it is nothing for her to slide her muzzle under one of these hefty troughs and, with a flick of her head, heave it in the air. When it comes down to earth, spinning, it sounds like the very bells of hell. From the bedroom window I loudly advised Alice to cut out the Quasimodo impersonation, and went back to sleep.

Of course, pregnancy does funny things to women, and pigs. Next morning I found that as well as revising her dining arrangements, she had also done a thorough spring-clean of the sty, moving the clean straw out into the sun and leaving the grubby stuff in a heap near the spot where she dungs. "Daft old pig," I muttered into her floppy black ear, pouring her breakfast into the relocated trough.

A few hours later, we had 11 piglets. First there was nothing, and then in no time at all there were 11 shiny black squealing creatures that slid from their mother with the greatest of ease, shrugged off their cling-film and staggered in the direction of a

nipple with a determination that brought a tear to my eye. It all took place nonchalantly, out in the sunshine on the clean straw. There was no fuss, except what I made myself as I ran to tell the children. "There's two!" I cried. Then ran back to the sty. Then back to the house. "Three!" I sprinted from farmyard to house bringing news of the births. By the end I was hurrying with pride and panting more than Alice.

I rang the owner of the boar to tell him the good news, and he was delighted. I remembered picking her up after she had been six weeks on his farm, and not knowing quite how to phrase the question which would elicit from him whether or not a mating had taken place. "How have things, er, been?" I enquired. He considered.

"I'd say he'd stocked her well, my old boy. Yep. Stocked her well, he has."

As soon as she was home I marked the calendar. Pigs have a convenient gestation period of three months, three weeks and three days. We now know that the happy union took place on her second night. It's lucky that black pigs can't blush.

Some might consider it bad pig management to have been taken so much by surprise by the birth, but I had been relying on the advice of an elderly neighbour. He had been positive: "She won't be havin' them little 'uns yet. Look, she ain't appled-up." He pointed to her udder. "Yer know what I mean?" he asked, and cupped his hands. "Appled-up. She ain't appled-up yet." She never was. Hence my failure to interpret her musical, midnight nest-building session.

She did not need me, anyway, that day. There was a brief crisis when one piglet got caught beneath its mother's bulk as she turned. I was tempted to dive in and help, but as sooo as the little one shrieked, Alice rolled the other way. It was the only moment when I thought I might have to play midwife, which was just as well as I had been rather dreading it, ever since I'd read a 1920s book which said: "There are few problems in farrowing that cannot be solved by good humour and a plentiful supply of lard."

But we needed neither. Alice did it her way, unaided and with great dignity. She has gone up proud. Let the bells ring out.



Pitscullo restored: businessman Angus Grossart says: "Privacy, seclusion and independence make you free from want: the true form of wealth"

King of his own castle

Home from home: Angus Grossart

The flag of St Andrew will fly proudly over Pitscullo Castle this week when Angus McFarlane McLeod Grossart, dubbed "the cleverest business brain in Scotland", welcomes a small party of guests for the Open Championship at the Royal and Ancient golf course at St Andrews. Proudly, because he has "slaved away" to restore the castle, once a haven in a troubled part of Scotland.

Pitscullo is now a quite different retreat. In the grounds, two children's swings, suspended from tall trees, sway gently in the breeze. A distinctly contemporary Wendy house is dwarfed by the castle's high, thick walls. This is where the Grossart family spends most weekends.

Mr Grossart, who founded Scotland's first merchant bank in 1969, normally has a hectic schedule, flying to New York, where he is on the board of Alexander and Alexander, the second-largest insurance broker in the world, and spending two days in London.

"People do wonder about why they are in London, when I can turn up in the City at ten past nine, having flown down from Edinburgh, and leave the meeting at the same time as most people

and be back in Edinburgh in time for dinner," he says.

His office is a two-minute walk from his elegant townhouse in Edinburgh, and 50 minutes by car from the castle, where he has spent many weekends over the past 12 years on its restoration.

He has been intrigued by early Scottish architecture for 15 years, visiting more than 200 castles that were intact, had been restored or were capable of restoration "To restore a castle seemed the ultimate entrepreneurial challenge, and I always had in mind that if I could find somewhere appropriate I would buy it," he says.

He was a keen golfer, so what better than a castle near the Royal and Ancient. He had played a lot of competitive golf before starting the bank. He was a scratch golfer for seven years and a former captain of the Scottish Youths international team. But in the bank's first ten years, there was little chance to play. And he has spent so many weekends on the castle's restoration that his golf has suffered. "The irony is that I was looking for somewhere that would enable me to relax," he

says. He bought the castle the day after he saw it, without a survey, paying a premium to keep it off the market. "I spent a year working out what I wanted to do. A year after starting work, one wing was gutted by fire, and I had to start again."

He married in 1978, just before the fire. His wife, Gay, shared his interest in restoration. She was on the executive council of the National Trust for Scotland for many years, and had been curator at Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh, the seat of the Linlithgows.

Part of the fun has been finding and getting to know traditional craftsmen and their skills, Mr Grossart says. "I ended up with four or five craftsmen capable of doing any of the work in the original building. They were great characters and I learnt a lot about the castle features through them."

"We have restored Pitscullo using stone, oak and iron, so the work should last another 400 years... immensely rewarding in a world, particularly the financial world, where everything has such immediacy."

"The early years of the restoration were particularly physical. We had to do a lot of probing to find out what features had been covered up, and remove a lot of patching and faulty materials. By opening everything up for inspection, we discovered a number of hidden original features."

Work on the castle's structure is now almost complete, and the fitting out is under way. He has put in 14 painted ceilings. Wooden carvings, collected over a number of years, are being incorporated into panelling for beds. Bedspreads and hangings are drawn from a large archive of old textiles, and iron hinges and locks on the heavy doors come from his collection of metal work. He is adding some finer touches to the exterior, including Latin inscrip-

tions on the dormer lintels. He briefly studied Latin poetry at Glasgow University. "Aequum memento..." are the first words from an ode by Horace. "(always) remember to keep a cool (mind in difficulties)..." Another, "Hodie mihi cras tibi," paraphrased, means "death comes to me today, to you tomorrow, (why therefore should we care?)"

Mr Grossart hopes to introduce a formal garden. "Gay is quite knowledgeable about gardening. We are gradually restoring the holly hedges, which were typical of the 17th century. We have also been restoring the hill on which the castle stands. It would be interesting to have a professional excavation of the hill."

"The earliest written records of the castle date back to the time of Robert the Bruce in the early 1300s, but it is certain that the site was fortified before that," Mr Grossart says. Above all, he is happy to have more time to enjoy the privacy, seclusion and sense of independence which Pitscullo affords. "These are the things I value above all else. They make you free from want, and that is the true form of wealth."

The castle's loft has now become a playroom for their seven-year-old daughter. "Flure has had a very normalising effect on all our activities. A child's needs are fairly ordinary and basic, but you have to give them a lot of priority."

When not at Pitscullo, Saturdays are often spent visiting art galleries in Edinburgh. Mr Grossart chairs the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland, which has under its control the National Gallery of Scotland, the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. He has also built up his own collection of paintings and decorative objects.

Next year, he will make a more serious attempt at golf. He has no regular partner: "I turn up and play with whoever I meet. It's nice to be spontaneous, when your business life is so structured."

ALASTAIR GUILD

Deer are the new darlings

Breeding

ALASDAIR Darroch says: "You don't farm deer, you farm with deer. If they are not happy they don't thrive." He has 500 of them on 400 acres near Wincey, Oxfordshire, and also in Leicestershire. Most are the familiar red, with a scattering of fallow deer, the spotted, lighter-coloured, Bambi lookalikes.

Happy herds of deer from Inverness to Devon are making Britain's 500 deer farmers equally happy. Inevitably, the furor over bovine spongiform encephalitis (BSE) has had its effect on beef sales, and now venison producers are being paid £1 to £1.50 per pound more than the wholesale prices paid for beef. Venison steaks, which tend to sell for £5-£6 per lb, will start building up again in the shops next month.

Mr Darroch, aged 33, saw this Eden coming while doing a degree in agriculture at Edinburgh University, even though his family is originally from Jura on the west coast of Scotland, where the problems lay in keeping deer out, not fencing them in.

"People who might not approve of deer farming usually change their minds when they see animals managed to a high standard," he says.

Meat sold by the British Deer Producers' Society maintains standards of production which do not permit the use of hormones or growth promoters. Animals are fed only on grass and other natural foods.

Imported deer from the Continent continually improve breed-



Sweet and tasty: the fallow deer

ing stocks. Hinds cost from about £400 up to £600. They are kept for breeding, with stags aged under 27 months supplying the meat. Less fatty than chicken, venison does not possess the characteristic marbling of some other meats. The low-cholesterol meat is also supplied to hospitals caring for cardiac patients.

Deer farming is initially expensive, needing a minimum outlay of £20,000, assuming one already has the land, Mr Darroch says. However, many people with ten to 15 acres of land, but with no farming tradition, have gone into deer farming in the past ten years, making it a profitable adjunct to other careers. Labour costs are low, involving barely more than a few days' work a year.

SANDY BISE

There will be an open day at Millpark Deer Farm, Arnesby, Leicestershire, on July 24 to study deer enterprise and management systems. Information from Alastair Darroch, Fishers' Gate Farms, North Leigh, Wincey, Oxfordshire OX3 6QJ (0993 883282).

Feather report

The dying days of birdsong

IT IS good to hear birdsong again. After a month in Italy you begin to forget what it sounds like, for Italy is a silent land. In four weeks of traveling all over the country, the only songbird I set ears on was a single chaffinch. From Palermo to Udine, by way, naturally, of Assisi, Italy annually celebrates a silent spring.

Silent, but for the blast of shotguns. *L'uomo e cacciatore* man is a hunter. D.H. Lawrence brutally mocked the tradition of Italian hunters in an essay with that title, writing of these intrepid types stalking the woods with their bags full of bloody goldfinches and dying thrushes. The slaughter is part of Italian life.

The main squares of the cities are filthy with pigeons: fed, encouraged and cherished, considered, for some baffling reason, photogenic. Foreign and Italian tourists stand covered by pecking hordes of grey birds while the cameras click away delightedly.

Away from the wonders of pigeonkind, birds are killed by the million. The slaughter is sanctioned by law and custom. The hunters kill not just songbirds, but migrating birds of prey, birds for which Italy has an international responsibility.

This is not merely horrible, it is a crime against international conservation. Predators operate on a smaller population base than prey species, which is obvious enough when you think of it. That makes them particularly vulnerable to direct persecution.

Members of Lipu, the Italian conservation organisation, are routinely attacked by hunters. These intrepid birders do not actually attempt to spoil the



most wonderful set of laws that could be devised for them. They are immune from laws of trespass: the law permits a hunter to go where he pleases and to gun down anything he fancies. For a man with a gun, the legal rights of property have no meaning, and the moral questions of conservation no existence.

A birder with a pair of binoculars has no such freedom. The law's partiality towards hunters is resented, but the combination of landowners and conservationists was not enough to win the day of the referendum.

CONSERVATIONISTS tend to seek silver linings: there is no point in the opposite attitude. It is clear that there are enough people opposed to the shooting laws to have some kind of political clout, even if this was not to be decisive on the day of the referendum.

But the weapons industry has clout of its own, clout that is measured more in terms of fire than outrage. Gun people like lots of guns: there is money to be made from such obsessions. In the US, the strongest pressure for the right to bear arms comes, albeit indirectly, from the arms industry. The same applies in Italy.

The result is an international disgrace, and one that attracts increasing international disquiet. *L'uomo e cacciatore* indeed! How many birds are killed every year so that Italians can prove their virility? Ah, but you're not a real man, are you - not unless you have carried the day in savage, one-to-one conflict with that legend of ferocity, the blood-thirsty, man-eating chaffinch.

SIMON BARNES

Life with a mental handicap.

Putting together as normal a life as possible is important to people with a mental handicap. That's where our many Gateway Clubs help. At these they can make music, make models, paint, play sports, and be just like the rest of us.

With our help they'll never be handicapped.

MENCAP

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مركزنا للتعليم

Is the answer blowing in the wind?

& Briefly

Decorative working accessories such as weather vanes, sundials and fountains are becoming increasingly sought-after now that gardens, patios and balconies are being furnished with the same verve as kitchens.

Vanes were popular in Victorian times, but there are few of the original, heavy cast-iron ones around now, and quite a few came down in last winter's storms. Old vanes are difficult to come by, although London's Crane Kaiman gallery stocks a selection of American and English pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries. Prices reflect scarcity: some examples can fetch several hundred pounds.

Modern versions are in metallised zinc or rust-proof steel in traditional designs —

cockerels, foxes and horses, for example — or they can be commissioned to suit a particular property. Oliver Gero, director of Brookbrae, the garden hardware firm, says: "Vanes are an eye-catching way to individualise a home and people use their imagination and wit when they commission orders. For example, we have made a vane shaped like a potter for a property called Kiln House, a bull beside water for Bullwater House, and a fish with initials for a Mrs Carp. A yachtsman asked for a copy of his boat. We have even produced a gold-leafed Alsatian dog."

"Our designs are created by the sculptor Edwin Russell, who is a director of our family company. He works from sketches and photographs or visits the client's house. It is important to gear the proportions of a design to the building.

Assets

Vanes look particularly good on an end gable or on the lower roofs of stables or outhouses, but you should ask a huilder to fit them to ensure they won't stick."

Brookbrae can provide the whole service from concept to fitting. A special order is likely to cost at least £450, although choosing from the company's standard range costs a little less. Arrows, flags, cars, horses, ships, witches, huntsmen, runners and bowlers are among the standard designs available from £414.

Elsewhere, flags, for £290, ships, £520, cockerels, £360 and hunting scenes, £350 (all plus VAT) are among the various styles which can be ordered from Rensland Forge, while Rusticraft's stan-

dard range, finished in black paint, includes Father Time, £149.50, and an Alsatian dog, £102.50 (prices include VAT and delivery). Anyone preferring their own design might contact artist-blacksmith Giles Blakeley, who works to commission at his Sussex forge. Recent projects have included bats, hawks, cats, dogs, Viking ships and dragons, each costing £200-£300. His vanes are three-dimensional rather than flat silhouettes.

Tessanna Hoare also makes to commission and has recently completed orders for a llama, rook, beaver, otter, whale and feather. Made of mild or stainless steel, the vanes are available in black, white or gilded finishes, or they can be hand-painted in bright colours like traditional bargeware. She provides a detailed drawing (£25) for clients to

approve before she starts her work. The Conran Shop, in London, stocks cockerels and foxes in black-painted steel at £49.50 each.

NICOLE SWINGLEY

- Crane Kaiman Gallery, 1710 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9QG (071-235 2464)
- Brookbrae, 53 St Leonard's Road, London SW14 7NQ (081-876 9238)
- Rensland Forge, London Road, Colford, Colchester, Essex (0206 210212)
- Rusticraft, 17a Burton Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire (0664 69965)
- Giles Blakeley, Towlers Lodge Forge, Brick Yard Lane, Mark Cross, East Sussex (039285 3239)
- Tessanna Hoare (information) Flat 1, 28 Floral Street, London WC2 (071-371 6903 or 071-836 8202)
- The Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW13 (071-589 7401)

Raise a laugh in the bath

BATHROOMS should not be taken too seriously, according to Ian and Lynn Wright, who live in West Cork and have been making earthenware with hand-painted underglaze decoration since 1973. Recently their work has become more bathroom-orientated. Much of it is commissioned and all the pieces are produced in numbered editions of 50. Their new "Kilnaclassical" collection includes a cornice-shaped Corrie soap dish, £81, and Scroll lavatory paper holder, £104. There are wry misinterpretations of Corinthian and Ionic columns in a Broken Column, £507, and Ionic Shelf, £173. The ponderous, thinking man's bidet costs a hefty £1,725, while a more contemporary-looking crossed legs pedestal plant holder is priced at £345. The Wrights can be contacted at Coris-Ceramics, Kilnaclassa, Skibbereen, Co. Cork (010 353 2521889). One of their main stockists is Max Pike's Bathroom Shop at 4 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (071-730 7216). "People are far too inclined to take design very seriously and here is a chance to see it in another light," Mr Pike says. "So long as you retain an element of style, you can get away with anything in the bathroom."

Green timber

GREEN consumers are beginning to look askance at their wooden furniture and a recent survey by trading standards officers showed that, thanks to new technology, many pieces are not what they seem. So being sure of the source of your furniture suddenly seems important. Noisy visitors now ask whether the mahogany cabinet in the corner is really mahogany (in which case you lose green points), or whether it is only mahogany veneer which was sold to you as mahogany (even worse: it shows you were prepared to buy unsustainable tropical hardwoods, but were not clever enough to recognise the real thing). A way round this problem is to buy only from reputable companies which offer assurances that they have used wood from sustainable forests. One such is Treske, established as a green furniture company in 1973, long before green became chic. It uses only good-quality English hardwoods from well-managed estates in the Yorkshire Dales, wind-dries the timber at its own sawmill, and uses lacquers and polishes that are as ozone-friendly as possible. Most of the furniture is made of ash, but can be made to order in oak, elm or beech. Prices range from about £50 for a kitchen chair to £900 for a dining table that will seat 12. There are Treske shops at Station Works, Thirsk, North Yorkshire and 5 Barmouth Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 2DT (081-874 0050).

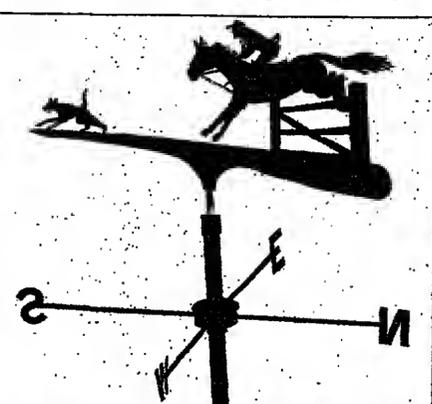
Slate is cool

CORNISH slate makes a refreshing alternative to plastic, wood and iron or steel garden furniture. It looks and keeps cool, withstands all weathers and offers innovative design possibilities. Pieces can be made to measure by Delabole Slate, Pengelly House, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9AZ (0840 212242). Tables cost from about £200, seats £50.

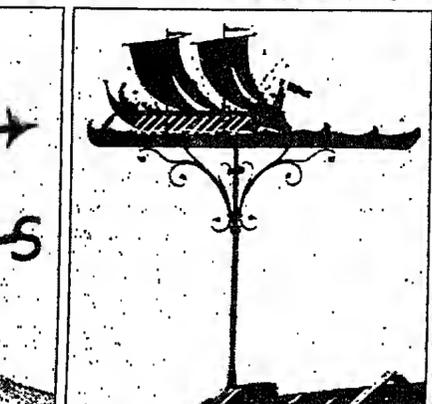
VICTORIA MCKEE



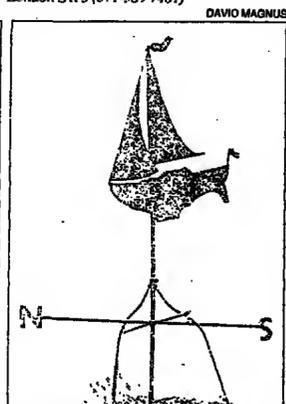
Vane glories: Pheasant (left) at Bells Yew Green, East Sussex, and foxhunting at nearby Eridge



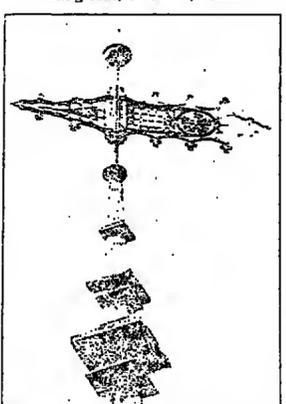
Swan and cygnet (left) at Pond House, Wadhurst, and Viking ship at Hadlow Down, East Sussex



Fleur-de-lis at Wadhurst College for Girls, East Sussex



Sailing boat, Chiswick, London



Gate above Holy Trinity, Eridge

Originals: Douglas Forbes, fly-tier

Follow that fly, cabbie

WITH a bit of luck — and, goodness knows, you need it on Scottish rivers these days — someone, somewhere, is catching a fish on a fly tied by Douglas Forbes. Ideally, the Scottish fly-tier is a hirsute gillie stripped to his puzos-four braces knocking out a dozen flies by the glow of a dram in his Highland hut and bent two rooms with a concrete block-house bathroom at the back. Inconveniently for the image, Mr Forbes has never lifted a fishing rod in his life, lives in an Aberdeen council house and is not even that keen on Highland glens.

His workshop is the driver's seat of a blue Ford Granada taxi, where he works on a home-made board hooked to the steering wheel as he waits for fares on the Hadden Street rank opposite Jimmy Wilson's bar. It is hardly a mass-production operation, although, as he says, it pays marginally better than doing the horses — just.

On a good tying day, which is, conversely, a rotten cab-driving day, he might produce two dozen flies. On the other hand, his daily contribution is just a small part of his company's annual output of 30,000 hand-tied salmon and sea trout flies, plus framed selections mounted on hessian.

Twenty per cent of output goes abroad, mainly to Scandinavia, but most to personal customers, often fishermen fares he has picked up from Aberdeen Airport. This year, D&G Flydressers — the "G" is his wife Gloria — will have supplied Farlow of Pall Mall with about 12,000 flies.

Mr Forbes took up tying flies in the mid-1980s to help out his wife, who had been trained at Sharpes of Aberdeen and had kept up with customers when Sharpes closed (Sharpes rods are still made, but at Redditch, Worcestershire).

Mrs Forbes has now given up tying and gone to work in an old people's home while her husband runs half a dozen outworkers. "There is not much of a livelihood in fly-tying," he says. "Not at 4p profit on each fly."

One of the reasons he carries on is the encouragement of his Aberdeen accountant, A. Gordon McBain. Apart from looking after the firm's books, Mr McBain has a personal interest in ensuring the continuation of D&G Flydressers — the Purple McBain, a fly whose success Peter Mackenzie-Phillips records in his book, *Successful Modern Salmon Flies* (Blandford Press, £12.95). The purple, Mr McBain remarks, reflects the fly's colouring, not his own.

Like most fishermen, Mr McBain once tended to carry rather more flies than he was ever likely to cast upon the waters. (Gillies delight in saying that flies catch more fishermen than fish.) Waiting to buy cast in Mortimers



Tied up: fishy pursuits are paying off for Douglas Forbes

of Grantown-on-Spey one day, he spotted an unusual purple fly and bought two. They turned out to be surprisingly successful. He lost one and sent the other back to Mortimers with an order for more. "What came back bore no resemblance to the original," he remembers, so he went to Mrs Forbes and between them they cooked up the Purple McBain, which has developed to the extent that it owes little, apart from colouring, to the Grantown fly. High water, low water, Tweed or Deveron, since 1984 Mr McBain has fished almost exclusively with that fly. "I can see no point in fishing with anything else," he says. His salmon tally, let alone sea trout, on the fly is 81.

Quite why the McBain should be so successful, skill apart, is something of a mystery. Purple is an unusual colour in salmon flies, but Mr McBain has a theory: one of the deadliest baits used by rod-and-line poachers, or the plain

greedy — "fishmongers", he snorts — is said to be a fresh prawn dyed purple, though what instigates a purple prawn suds in a 30-pounder, dozing behind a Helmsdale boulder, have yet to be revealed.

Not that the Purple McBain is a thinly disguised prawn. Mr McBain has had it made up by D&G in every other pattern yet devised, from 2in tubes to 3in tubes. He attributes much of the fly's success to the Forbeses' patience and skill in interpreting his various ideas over the years.

What may slightly disturb other fishermen is the suggestion that the changing of flies from, say, a Hairy Mary to a Munro Killer, makes not one whit of difference. Provided the right-sized fly is on the cast, there appears to be no reason to fish with anything other than the Purple McBain.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON
• Mail order list from D&G Flydressers, 3 Wood Street Lane, Aberdeen AB1 3QF (0224 872 170).

THIS WEEKEND

• World pea shooting championships: Individuals and groups from UK and abroad; village fete, stalls, sideshows, tug of war. *Witcham, near Ely, Cambridgeshire. Today from 2pm, free.*

• Nether Wichendon open weekend: 11 houses and cottage gardens in this pretty mediaeval village are open to the public. Rural crafts, plant and produce stalls, masses of flowers and choral and instrumental concert tomorrow, 7.30pm, in 15th-century church. In aid of the church roof. *Nether Wichendon, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Concert tickets 0844 290441/292057 (information 0844 290203).*

• Gala open air concert: Part of Lucknam Park's contribution to the 800th birthday celebrations of Colerne parish church. Georgian City Orchestra plays Bach, Haydn, Strauss and Handel. *Lucknam Park, Colerne, Wiltshire. Tomorrow. Concert begins 7pm. £6-£10, unreserved £2.50 (reservations, 0225 742777).*

• Saxted Festival: Last two concerts. Tonight 7.30pm, Amariyllis Consort sings music of 17th century England. Tomorrow 7.30pm, Essex Youth Orchestra plays music by Weber, Strauss, Walton and Elgar. *Saxted Church, Saxted, Essex. Tonight, reserved £8, unreserved £5, child £2.50. Tomorrow, £6, £4, £2 (0371 830350).*

• Ashbourne Highland Gathering: Tomorrow, English pipe band championship, Highland and country dancing and evening meal. *Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Today 1pm-5.30pm (tonno 7.30pm), tomorrow 11am-evening. Today, adult £1.50, child £1. Tomorrow adult £2.50, child £1.25. Tattoo £3.50-£5.50.*

• Stratford-upon-Avon Festival: Three-week mainly music festival begins today. Town carnival today from 1pm, then a ceilidh. Firework display from 10.30pm. *Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, until August 5 (0789 67969).*

Walk: Winslow, Buckinghamshire



ALTHOUGH this eight-mile walk from Winslow to Stewley concentrates on the pastoral element, it requires two cars for those who do not wish to retrace their steps. Start in Sheep Street, Winslow, walking east and passing Winslow Hall, a 1700 mansion where Christopher Wren at least checked the building accounts. Continue past thatched cottages and as far as Shipton, where the A413 turns south. Briefly follow the B4032.

Beyond the barns, turn right on to the footpath which heads east through the pastures, across a stream, to regain the B4032, which you follow into Swanbourne. At the junction, follow the road south to the church, then left to pass Deverell's farmhouse, dated 1632, then right down a path to Nearthon End, turning left to pass timber-framed houses and left again to regain the B4032. Turn left, then right down a lane and quickly right on to the football field, through a copse, and head north-east past

Church Hill farm toward fishing lakes. Beyond the farm, turn right on to a track that leads into Mursley. Reaching the junction, turn right then left into Cooks Lane. Where the lane ends, bear right to follow the path into Drayton Parslow, with its grand former rectory of 1754 in dark, glazed brick.

Opposite the church, cross into the back lane, which curves east. At the junction, turn right to head uphill south-east out of the village. Just before the end of the lane, turn right to head south along the hedge, left into the valley and then up towards Grange farm at the north end of Stewley.

At Blechley Road, turn right, and at the junction turn left into the High Street of Stewley, which has a number of 17th century houses and the Norman church of St Michael, built in about 1150 and richly decorated with chevron-moulded arches.

Country events

• Royal Isle of Wight Agricultural Society show: Livestock, jumping and showing, vintage cars, private driving and arena events including falconry and precision motor cycle displays. *Northwood Showground, Newport Road, Northwood, Cotes, Isle of Wight. Today 9am-6.30pm. £3, child £1.50, car park free.*

• Quoits world championships: Competitors from all over the country. Also, tomorrow, north country wrestling. *Museums open. North of England Open Air Museum, Beamish, Stanley, Co. Durham (0207 231811). Today, tomorrow 10am-6pm. £4.50, child £3.50, car park free.*

• King's Lynn Festival of Music and the Arts: The ten-day festival commemorates Sir John Barbirolli. This year's theme is Italian. *King's Lynn Centre for the Arts, King Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. July 18-23 (0553 774725).*

• Music for the Royal Fireworks: Open-air lakeside concert with the Handel Festival Orchestra, English Brass Ensemble and fireworks. *Vine bar, canteen and other refreshments. Radley College, Radley, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Wed-Sun, gates open 6.30pm. £15, child £5. Wed, Thurs, child free with every two adult tickets. Booking only: 0865 864056.*

NEXT WEEK

• King's Lynn Festival of Music and the Arts: The ten-day festival commemorates Sir John Barbirolli. This year's theme is Italian. *King's Lynn Centre for the Arts, King Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. July 18-23 (0553 774725).*

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The rainforests need you

Reinforests affect us all wherever we live.

- They retain and recycle water and prevent disasters like floods, landslides and famine.
- They provide vital sources of foods and life-saving medicines for both local people and ourselves.
- By burning them we contribute to global warming, climatic change and rising sea levels around our own coasts.

WWF (World Wildlife Fund For Nature) has already invested over £10 million in 180 Rainforest conservation projects. HELP US RAISE £1 MILLION FOR OUR RAINFOREST AND EDUCATION PROJECTS AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL MATCH IT. We can only have this money if you and other supporters help us to match the Government's grant. Any extra money you raise will be used to finance other WWF priority rainforest projects in Asia, Africa and S.America.

All you have to do is WALK. There are over 300 WWF fund raising walks around the country.

You can choose how far you want to walk or make a donation.

Please send for your local sponsor form now.

Walk Hotline 04868 25545

To find out more about Rainforests, please contact: Gail Jones, WWF, 11, 11/17

Yes, please send me the sponsor form and details of the Walk for my Rainforest project.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Send 10p to WWF for the Rainforest but send 10p to WWF for the Rainforest

Duration of walk (please print) _____

I understand that my donation will be used to fund WWF rainforest projects

I would like to be a "Walker" (please print) _____

Card No. _____

Expiry date _____

Signature _____ Date _____



ANDREW MARTIN

Would you swap London for this?

What advantages are there for joining the growing band of people moving away from the buzz and facilities of the capital?
Sally Brompton found out

Hugh Corran still misses the international, entrepreneurial buzz of London life after nearly four years of living in Harrogate. "If you are an international businessman and have lived somewhere else, Harrogate is a provincial backwater," he says. "While the quality of life, in English terms, is high, in European terms it's pretty ordinary."

Despite his mixed feelings about the north Yorkshire spa town which is now his home, Mr Corran, aged 51, a senior marketing executive with ICI Fibres, is unwittingly spearheading a trade revolution, according to the Henley Centre, the forerunner of business trends.

Harrogate is one of 30 regional centres - from Salisbury in Inverness - which the centre predicts will prosper in Britain in the 1990s as a result of the slump in London's importance as a national and international centre.

As his firm's headquarters is in Harrogate, having transferred there from its Knightsbridge office, the move north did not come as a surprise to Mr Corran and his German wife, Sigrid. However, it has meant a conscious cultural adjustment.

"We not really met an international person up here," Mr Corran says. "The people are much less travelled and you suddenly find that your interests are different. But they may actually be nicer people here - they have more time for you. It's just that their vision is much more circumscribed."

Mr Corran considers Harrogate to be cheaper than London, although he finds the choice of goods limited and the standards lower. "London has good facilities: the shopping, entertainment, food culture - we used Harrods a lot. The temptation to spend money is less here."

"In Harrogate the Italian restaurants still serve pizza and indifferent spaghetti bolognese, and you get sachets of salad cream instead of French dressing. Our Continental visitors are not enamoured with Harry Ramsden's fish and chips."

Mr Corran joined ICI Fibres straight from Oxford, where he read modern languages, and has lived in New York and Milan. He still travels extensively to Europe and, occasionally, America, and resents the fact that it costs him as much to fly from Leeds to London as it does from London to the Continent.

Yet, despite Harrogate's shortcomings, he and his wife agree that the town has improved. "It has become much younger and more lively than when we first came," says Mrs Corran, who gave up her career as a knitwear



Symbol of tranquility. Salisbury cathedral is "must" for sightseers. Newcomers who work in the town say: "It's less stressful than London, people are more courteous, and there's a strong emphasis on music and the arts"

design consultant ten years ago. "It has many more good shops. I find better Continental clothes in Harrogate than I do in the South. I've just discovered a shop here that sells Zandra Rhodes - the only place I have found outside London that does so."

Mrs Corran uses the same supermarkets as she did in London but says it is harder to find European basics, such as olive oil. "And getting tradesmen to do anything takes weeks."

While missing the social life among the bankers and entrepreneurs who lived near their previous home in Weybridge, Surrey, the couple appreciate the warmth of the Yorkshire people. "There's a very stable community around us," Mrs Corran says. "When we go away our neighbours look after the house, and if I'm here on my own there's always a plate of Sunday roast for me."

"The way of life here is much more real than in the South. People have the right priorities. You get the feeling that you might really live until you are 80 or 90."

There are other advantages, despite the climate, which Mrs Corran finds considerably colder

than in the South. It takes Mr Corran around 20 minutes to commute into work from their Yorkshire stone house in a pretty village to the south of the town. In London, it could take him up to an hour and a half.

"Hugh is definitely more relaxed living here," Mrs Corran says. "He never loses his temper these days. Down in the South I would hear him swearing in French quite a bit, but he never does it now."

Anxious about the girls' education

Philip and Shirley Smith have no doubt that they made the right decision in moving to Salisbury, Wiltshire, from the outskirts of London four years ago, despite the fact that their lifestyle has totally changed. "It's much more relaxed," says Captain Smith, a 44-year-old former Merchant Navy man who runs his own business exporting marine equipment to the Third World.

"In London we were out most nights, but now we tend to stay in much more. There's a good choice of restaurants in and

around Salisbury but entertainment is done more at home."

The Smiths moved to the cathedral town to be near the export company for which Captain Smith was, at the time, working on a freelance basis. They sold their three-bedroom detached house in Bromley, Kent, along with planning permission for another dwelling, for £86,000 and bought an £82,000 four-bedroom house with an office annex in a village on the outskirts of Salisbury.

Their only concerns were for their daughters, Alexandra, now 15, and Nicola, 12, but the girls settled happily in their new schools, although their parents feel that the standard of education is not as high as it could be.

"I do not feel they've suffered but I do feel they would have got an education we would have had in Kent," says Mrs Smith, 43, who works part-time for a public relations consultancy based in Southampton. "But the girls are both happy here. They did mind leaving their friends but children are so adaptable and their whole lives now revolve around horses."

The Smiths main disappointment is the difficult journey into

London, because of the inefficient train service and the heavy traffic on the A30 and A303. "We do have a rush hour in Salisbury but it lasts only 20 minutes," Captain Smith says. Mrs Smith still does the family shopping in one of the major supermarkets and buys her clothes at the local Marks & Spencer. "Salisbury is a very cosmopolitan town," she says.

"There's a very strong emphasis on music and the arts and a lot of things revolve around the cathedral."

"There's such a high degree of courtesy here, and it's definitely a less stressful atmosphere. I loved London when I left there but now I feel so unsafe there and I loathe the Underground."

'Blood and thunder' approach to Church

For some families, however, moving away from the South-East can be a traumatic experience. When David Quinton's Surrey-based firm decided to expand into the Highlands it took him and his wife, Jan, about 18 months to settle into their new

home on the outskirts of Inverness. "At one time, we were ready to move back to Crawley," admits Mr Quinton, aged 39. "But now wild horses wouldn't drag us back."

After three years in the Highlands, where English immigrants are known as "white settlers", the couple have come to terms with their new "leisurely" lifestyle, and Mrs Quinton has overcome her initial feelings of loneliness and isolation. "It takes time to build relationships," Mr Quinton says.

As the general manager for Zonal, manufacturers of recording tape, he spent the first few months setting up the new factory and training his new local workforce - "the best I've ever worked with".

His 38-year-old wife works part-time for the firm and their daughters, Clare, 14, and Sarah, 11, go to the local school, which the Quintons consider provides a better standard of education than in England. "We were worried about the kids not settling but in fact it was Jan and I who didn't settle as quickly," Mr Quinton says.

Regular churchgoers, the Quintons found it hard to accept the "blood and thunder" ap-

proach to Christianity which they found in the Highlands. "Even cooking on Sundays is very out of order here," Mr Quinton says. "But we've done what our consciences felt was right and people have to put up with it." The family still have their Sunday roast.

Their standard of living has gone up in that they now live in a £45,000 four-bedroom, double-garaged detached bungalow on an acre of ground. They sold their three-bedroom terraced house in Crawley for £52,000. "We eat out a lot more, mainly because the food is so cheap," Mrs Quinton says.

On other things in the shops, she estimates, are about 10 per cent more expensive than in the South. They both like the "old-world" cathedral city - "a nice little place, and when I say 'little' I do mean little," says Mr Quinton. But they agree there is not much to do there.

"There's one theatre we haven't yet been to and one cinema, which we've been to a couple of times," Mr Quinton says. "I would prefer to be in Crawley in terms of night life and shopping, but I wouldn't want to be there to live."

SALLY BROMPTON

Events In Town

THIS WEEKEND

● Ripon cathedral concert: The English Renaissance Orchestra plays Beethoven's Symphony No 8 in F, his overture *Leonora*, McCawley's Piano Concerto in E flat, followed by Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in D. Ripon Cathedral, north Yorkshire. Tonight 7.30pm, £7, child £3, tickets from Ripon Travel, Kirkcaldy, or Arcadia Music.

● UK Modelx wings 'n' wheels spectacular: Vintage cars, radio-controlled aircraft, helicopters and boats, stalls, trade exhibition and big band concert tonight. North Weald Aerodrome, Harlow, Essex. Today 9.30am to evening. Tomorrow 9.30am-6pm. £3.50, child £1.50 (booking 0684 64505).

● Corby Highland gathering and Sunday funday: Traditional events with piping, drumming, dancing, tug-of-war, tossing the caber, and many other Highland events today. Tomorrow, full programme of arena events, circus and other children's entertainments, bands. Rockingham Triangle Athletics Stadium, Corby, Northamptonshire. Today 8.30am-5.30pm, Tomorrow 11am-5.30pm, £3, child £1.50.

● Bexley show: Arena events, classic cars, parachute drops, traction engines and, tomorrow, an exemption dog show. Danson Park, Welling, Kent. Today, tomorrow 11am-5.30pm, £1.70, family ticket - two adults plus two children - £4.

● Cheltenham festival: Aeolian harps today, tomorrow in Imperial Gardens, 2pm. Today, street entertainment, carnival procession from 2pm. Tomorrow fun races from 11am, donkey derby 2pm in Cox's Meadow, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

● Jewish Museum open day: Exhibition about the social history of London's Jewish community. Events include a working tailor, demonstrations of cabinet-making and Hebrew calligraphy, live Yiddish music, drama workshops and bugels for children. London Museum of Jewish Life, Sternberg Centre, 80 East End.

Road, Finchley, London N3 (081-349 1143). Tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm, £1, under-13 free.

● Kirkcaldy fun festival: Caribbean carnival procession round the town from 3.30pm, steel bands, costume judging, Caribbean and Asian food. Today from 3pm. Greenhead Park, Huddersfield, Yorkshire.

● Seaside family fun: Sandcastle competitions, races, tug-of-war, treasure hunts, and clown shows. Ideal five to 11-year-olds. Wish Tower beaches, Eastbourne, Sussex. Tomorrow at low tide.

NEXT WEEK

● East of England agricultural show: Largest regional show of its kind in the country with livestock, arena events, dog show, schools section, many demonstrations and trade stands. East of England Showground, Alwalton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (0733 234451). Tues-Thurs, £8, child £3.50.

● RHS flower show: Competitions in summer fruit and vegetables, hardy herbaceous plants, carnations. Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London SW1 (071-834 4333). Tues 11am-7pm, Wed 10am-5pm, £2.50.

● Art Affresco: Summer art exhibition with paintings, prints, sculpture, textiles, ceramics and jewellery from the London art schools exhibitions in streets, shops, cafes and restaurants in Soho. Performing artists in the Soho street theatre. Soho, London W1, Tues to July 31 (information 071-287 0907).

● Dogget's coat and badge race: Annual river race for single sculls over a four mile course, founded in 1715 by Thomas Dogget. London Bridge to Chelsea, Thurs, race starts 6.45pm.

● Cumberland agricultural show: Bringing the country in town with livestock, horticulture, trade stands, competitions and a Food in Britain section. Butts Park, Carlisle, Cumbria. Thurs from 9am.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Gold Father Thames

Today 100 anglers will try to hook a £10,000 prize out of the Thames



THE Serpentine in London's Hyde Park is now a safer place for ducks, and anglers competing nearby on the Thames today will have a slightly better chance of catching pike. The link between the two is a 152-year-old angling society which went green long before there were votes in it.

When the keepers of the royal parks wanted someone to solve the mystery of their disappearing ducklings they called in the Thames Angling Preservation Society (Taps), which has been fighting to make the river fit for fish to live in since 1838. Taps decided that Hyde Park's ducklings were disappearing down the capacious throats of that Rottweiler of a coarse fish, the pike (*Esox lucius*, British rod-registered 441b, Ardeleigh Reservoir, Essex, 1987).

There are pike lovers who cast doubt on this predator's taste for duck dinners and, perhaps rightly, scoff at stories of them leaping out of the water to munch on small dogs.

Taps agreed with the royal parks people to give the ducks the benefit of the doubt and netted about 40 pike in prime condition and weighing up to 8lb.

These were transferred into the Thames where today, the society is holding its annual fishing competition between Westminster Bridge and Southwark Bridge, sponsored by the Central Council for Physical Recreation. More than 100 anglers will take part and everyone is expected to catch fish during the four-hour (10am-2pm) competition: two hours before and two hours after low tide, when the Thames is at its oxygen-best and the fish feed ravenously, according to optimistic enthusiasts.

Prize-giving is at 3pm at the marquee outside London Weekend Television on the south bank of the Thames, half way between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges. The top prize could be £10,000 if any angler is lucky enough to catch one of three small carp which have

been tagged. Dick Hodges, the secretary of Taps for 23 years, cannot promise that the pike will oblige today. "It's a big river," he says, "and those pike could be anywhere now. But I will be disappointed if every angler does not have fish of some kind to weigh in. Carp, perch, roach, dace, barbel, bleak, eel, brown trout, rainbow trout, perhaps even salmon."

This is a remarkable list when you consider that for more than 100 years, up until the 1960s, the tidal reaches of the Thames were fishless, except for the robust eel.

The Industrial Revolution, and Thomas Crapper's invention of the flush lavatory, killed off the Thames' reputation as one of the finest salmon rivers in the world; and when Mr Hodges took over as Taps secretary in 1967 there was

still hardly a fish in it. A determined pollution control programme since then has created conditions which have brought more than 100 different species back to the river, including bass, cod, hake, pipefish and an annual run of salmon.

Since 1979, 1,100,000 salmon have been put into the freshwater reaches of the Thames. The salmon swim out to sea where they winter for one, two or more years before returning to breed, always to their native river. In common with all fish the level of mortality is frighteningly high and the number of salmon returning can be as low as 0.05 per cent.

IN 1980, four salmon were trapped and released on their way back up the Thames. In 1981 the figure was eight and in 1989 there were a record 323 returning salmon counted. Last year's figure slumped to 131 because the summer was so hot and the water levels so low and short of oxygen that many salmon died in their attempt to get back to their breeding grounds.

The Thames Salmon Trust, a charity which works with the National Rivers Authority and Taps, is aiming at a target of 1,000 salmon returning annually.

"Even that figure does not give the angler much chance of catching a salmon in such a large river as the Thames," Mr Hodges says. "The object of the programme is not to provide targets for anglers, but to restore the stock of salmon for posterity."

If today's competitors do catch a salmon, it will be gently returned to the river as will all the other fish. Even duck-eating pike.

JACK CROSSLEY

● Thames Angling Preservation Society, The Pines, The Kilt Lane, Bexley, Kent EA5 2BB: (0322 525575)
● Thames Salmon Trust, 2nd Floor, Kings Meadow House, Kings Meadow Road, Reading RG1 8DQ (0735 594843)

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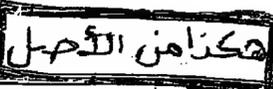
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Breaching Pimlico's great wall

Changing face

London has never been able to decide if it approves of arcaded streets. One generation returns from the Continent enamoured of the rue de Rivoli and the Piazza San Marco, the next takes the view of the American consul in Italy who, a century ago, condemned "the whole race of arcaded cities" as "dull, blind and comfortless... a continuous self-away". Perhaps the weather changes every 20 to 25 years: first we clamour for shelter from the driving rain, next we want to walk outside in the sun.

As Phase II of the Victoria Station redevelopment emerges from its wraps (and good, informative wraps they were, by Wall Street Murals) we see a scheme which tries to combine the best of both - a majestic, airy colonnade with a continuous glass roof behind, like a conservatory.

For the past ten years the southern end of Buckingham Palace Road has been the most noxious introduction to a great city imaginable. Here, in five minutes, you could absorb more lead from fumes than our ancestors would have taken in during a lifetime. A less user-friendly transport exchange, particularly for passengers moving to and from Victoria railway and coach stations, cannot be imagined.

Now, the drivers who surge along Buckingham Palace Road have been treated to an extraordinary sight - a gleaming white stone colonnade, as stately as any in London, 600ft long with 20ft Doric columns all the way. Here is monumental classical architecture on a scale well beyond what has been created at Richmond Riverside or conceived for Paternoster. In height and length, it deserves comparison with the great screen wall with which Sir John Soane closed the Bank of England to protect its gold bullion. And if it seems half-familiar, you are not mistaken, for this was the wall erected by Act of Parliament in the early 1900s to shut out all sight and sound of the railway. The Duke of Westminster's condition in releasing the land was that the smuts from steam engines should not float out into the expensive purdies of Belgravia.

The architect of 123 Buckingham Palace Road, as the new scheme is known, is Peter Foggo, who recently left Arup Associates to set up his own practice. His clients, Greycoat Estates and British Rail, gave him the task of combining a large and lucrative scheme of offices and shopping over the tracks with a pleasant route through to the coach station. At the same time, the Green Line bus stops, uncomfortably sited on Ecclestone bridge, have been boused under cover.

The solution has been to retain the architectural element of the great screen wall along Buckingham Palace Road - the columns, the niches, the cornices and balustrades. To replace the large panels of brickwork in the new openings, handsome Doric columns have been introduced.

A century ago, architects would have agonised over the precise distance between the columns, all of which were mathematically set out in Roman and Renaissance treatises. Mr Foggo has simply placed the new columns beneath the breaks in the Edwardian balustrade above. Here, un-



Part of the 600ft Doric colonnade fronting Victoria station's arcade of shops and eating places, forming a thoroughway to the coach station

consciously perhaps, he was echoing Palladio's advice that the Tuscan Order, virtually identical to Doric, could be more widely spaced than Ionic or Corinthian, making it suitable, he said, for placing carts and other vehicles between the openings. Mr Foggo has given the new colonnade a grandeur by coupling the columns in a nine-two-two-one rhythm, like the paired columns Wren used at Greenwich.

the classical language of architecture can be applied to a modern utilitarian building and raise it above the level of pure function. It is easy to see how the high-tech glass and steel box above could have been continued down to pavement level, and this, in fact, is what happens at the sides.

As it is, the colonnades provide a happy response to the row of Edwardian houses across the street, which, incidentally, has some of the richest iron railings in London. Mr Foggo also intends to mirror the leafy row of plane trees opposite with huge planters filled with substantial trees and shrubs.

The test of 123 Buckingham Palace Road will be whether travellers between the coach and railway stations use it, and this in turn depends on sufficient trolleys being available at both ends. Otherwise, the hard-won planning gain will be thrown away.

For Westminster, the development is proof that a tough planning policy aimed at maintaining the character of the borough is actually helping it compete with the City. Phase I of the development was let to Salomon Brothers, the American investment bankers, and Phase II has been pre-let to PA Management Consultants and the Department of Trade and Industry.



An inside view of the colonnade with its continuous glass roof

Inside the colonnade, there will be a broad, level walk flanked by shops and places to eat. The sleek tinted-glass buildings above have a double skin with sheets of glass one metre apart. In winter, this will help to retain the warmth of the sun, in summer ventilators will open automatically at the top, drawing in cooler air from below.

The floors of the new pedestrian mall will be in a buff-coloured French stone, the granular texture of which makes it easier to remove blackened chewing-gum stains which so quickly disfigure white terrazzos.

The ingenuity is a mix of public and private space. The new pedestrian mall and large covered square will be paid for and maintained by the developers but open to the public 24 hours a day.

Mr Foggo's scheme shows how

the classical language of architecture can be applied to a modern utilitarian building and raise it above the level of pure function. It is easy to see how the high-tech glass and steel box above could have been continued down to pavement level, and this, in fact, is what happens at the sides.

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MARCUS BINNEY



Market magic: Peter Crossley, co-owner of the Oasis Garden Centre

The green oasis alive with snakes and tarantulas

Manchester's Victorian fish market is now a garden centre, but it is not only the vegetables and plants that are attracting the customers

FISH, fruit and vegetables were banished from grand Victorian markets in the middle of Manchester in the 1970s, and, as with Billingsgate and Covent Garden in London, the traders and their wares were shifted out of town to places more rational and less picturesque.

Unlike in London, philistinism prevailed and the atmospheric old iron, glass and brick market buildings were stripped of their roofs, some were demolished. Only the walls were left, belatedly listed as being of special architectural interest.

Then along came a couple of Mancunians who thought the site of an old fish market would be just the place to start a business. So Peter Crossley and John Warley leased the land from the city and in a couple of months created a green oasis from the dereliction, the Oasis Garden Centre, which has been going for seven years.

As a former retail warehouse manager, Mr Warley scarcely had green fingers, but horticulture was evidently in the blood - his father had worked at Kew Gardens. Now he is nearly as expert as his partner, who had run market gardens and been sales manager of a garden centre. "The idea of a city garden centre has paid off," says Mr Crossley. "The Oasis attracts not only shoppers who come into town for the day, but office staff who pop in at lunchtime or on their way home from work."

"We stock everything from a 50p Busy Lizzie to a Cycad media for £1,000. That's an Australian plant which is an ancestor of the Christmas tree."

The Oasis adjoins Manchester's largely Asian-run garment district, and is just a few minutes' walk

from the city's thriving Chinatown. "That's another pleasure of being in the city centre: we are able to cater for a multicultural clientele," Mr Warley says. Asian customers are keen on plants to grow for food - okra, aubergine, chilli pepper, coriander, cumin and fenugreek. Tree peonies, from China, are popular with the Chinese. A ten-year-old one costs £100; recently a Chinese customer snapped up ten.

"Chinese people love a particular sort of flowering cactus we grow which they call town-fah," Mr Crossley says. "When it blooms it flowers for only two hours, and fills the room with scent which smells like crushed pineapples and mangoes. They will sit by the plant and wait until it blooms - I think they have a special appreciation of the transience of beauty."

IN ADDITION to its range of up to a thousand plants, the Oasis also has an aquarium and a reptilium, with koi carp, lizards, giant toads, and snakes - ranging from a tiny sand boa to a 16ft python. There are also fruit bats, tarantulas and scorpions - and there are plans for wallabies and butterflies.

The partners sometimes deal with television and film companies. "Once, for a television commercial, we had to build a garden that went through four seasons and aged ten years in just a week's filming," Mr Crossley recalls.

"We've hired out plants, snakes and tarantulas. Only this week the BBC rang up to hire an ant. You might say we do the lot, from plant hire to ant hire."

BERNARD SILK

Help: Lydia Wong, masseuse

Utilising feats of skill

LYDIA Wong would love to walk all over you - and some of the richest and most famous people in the world pay her to do just that, all in the cause of health. Ms Wong's sensitive feet have kneaded the He-man torso of actor Dolph Lundgren and the more delicate anatomies of the actress Anjelica Huston and the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi.

She will visit clients at home or on their yachts, or anywhere in the world, when she is not holding more moderately priced sessions at a London health centre and her local church, or teaching stress management to executives.

The petite 33-year-old from Singapore began practising Shatsu massage and other oriental healing arts on friends when she was at home bringing up her daughter. She has now built up an awesome reputation in an area that is open to sniggers and innuendo. But Ms Wong is serenely above all that, accepting it as something all masseuses, however reputable, have to put up with.



Balancing act: Lydia Wong believes in the harmony of mind and body

exercises that strengthen the inner self.

She emphasises balance, "the yin and yang of the body and the mind", and offers suggestions on how to achieve that balance physically and emotionally.

A slim, erect figure in her Chinese-style blouse and baggy trousers, Ms Wong has learned to make her feet as healing as her hands. "But I wouldn't walk all over everybody. I have to judge such things carefully." A big, muscular back supports her 8 stone frame easily, and athletes are ideal candidates. "When I was younger I was asthmatic and heavily stressed from working night-shifts in a casino to support my daughter," Ms Wong says. "So

I worked out my own programme of diet and exercise and it was a process of self-education."

Although she spent a time with Bodyworks, the now defunct organisation formed to send masseuses and other therapists into offices, she believes it failed because people do not want massage in the office. "They are too aware there that time is money. People want to have it at home, or somewhere where they can relax and forget about work."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Lydia Wong, Natureworks, 16 Balderton Street, London W1 (071-355 4036), where a session costs £30. Her classes at the Church of the Holy Innocents, Paddenswick Road, London W6, cost £5 for 90 minutes.

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Trying to estimate the sell-buy date

Now that the first tremors of the art market earthquake have subsided, it is time to dust off those heirlooms and reassess their worth. Apart from the disappointed vendors currently collecting their possessions from the auctioneers' tradesman's entrances, the tricky question of value is exercising the dealing fraternity, insurance loss adjusters and heritage lobbyists.

Categories recently cultivated by speculators, such as impressionism, have been hardest hit. Other, dealer-dominated areas, such as the British paintings sold last week, are relatively unscathed. All areas, however, have been visited by unpredictability, with some star lots performing magnificently while others simply flop.

Last week's British casualties included a minor John Constable drawing of a girl, unsold at less than £8,000, and Joseph Wright, of Derby's erupting Vesuvius from *Postillo* unsold at £800,000. At the other extreme, a bronze sculpture by Sir (William) Hamo Thornycroft defied its estimate of £1,800, selling to the London dealer Peter Nahum for £23,100.

The issue for heritage professionals, such as the members of the reviewing committee for the export of works of art which met last Thursday, is whether or not to accept valuations, usually made by auction houses, at last year's hush prices. A year ago, the committee rubber-stamped a valuation of £20 million on Turner's *Seascape, Folkestone*, despite the fact that, even during the boom, no painting by him had fetched this much. Because no museum could match that amount and "save" the work, it went abroad.

Museum curators have the knotty problem of valuing art works being lent to exhibitions under a government indemnity, or insurance policy. The paintings scheduled for the Royal Academy's Monet exhibition in September come under this category. If the curators get their prices wrong, the taxpayer could end up paying an inflated bill.

Loss adjusters are also facing complex calculations, and sometimes disputes over the value of stolen works. The scenario here is that a given category booms, whereupon the owners up their insurance premiums, and the burglars catch on. Then, as the

Why do some works fail to meet their estimate - and some soar beyond it?



Failure: this John Constable was rejected unsold at under £8,000



Success: a Thornycroft bronze topped its estimate by £21,300

burglars go into action, the market falters, and the insurance men refuse to pay more than the lower market price.

"Valuations are accepted naively by insurance companies, and everything is hunky dory until the theft is stolen," says Stephen Rollo-Smith, of the insurance company Miller Knight.

For ordinary punters who sim-

ply want to sell a painting, assessment of the market temperature and the worth of a given artefact are confused by a variety of auction practices. These entail "knocking down" works at the final price called out, whether the object sells or not, or indeed whether there are any bids or not. The final "valuation" supplied by the auctioneers to subscribers in their printed sales sheets do not specify what is and is not sold.

Whereas the estimated price first suggested by the auctioneer at the time of consignment is duly published in a given catalogue, the reserve, or lowest price at which the vendor agrees to sell the work, is often adjusted before the sale, making for frequent distortions in relation to the estimate.

If, as appears to have happened with the failed Joseph Wright of Derby painting at Christie's, the reserve was raised to around the level of the printed estimate, it is impossible for observers to know whether the "knock-down" price is due to genuine bidding, or simply the owner's reserve. Bids filtered at £800,000 - right on the printed lower estimate.

Other pitfalls include the varying degrees of expertise available. Whereas Sotheby's and Christie's had steady results for their British paintings last week (apart from the Wright of Derby), vendors at Phillips's equivalent sale had to take home 40 per cent of the works, due to a combination of "poor-quality works and over-high estimates".

So how does the disappointed vendor assess the value of his unsold work? With difficulty.

A logical way would be to find a similar work which did sell, and equate the two. Such calculations, however, become irrelevant in a climate where buyers reject "stale goods". Similarly, vendors have no recourse against the auction house for getting the valuation wrong, and no guarantee that after-sale offers will be negotiated to their satisfaction. One dealer derides Phillips for refusing to sell a Henry Moore drawing after a sale, because the company insisted on its usual 10 per cent commission from both buyer and seller. Unless a vendor negotiates with the auction house beforehand, a disappointed he or she can be faced with a bill for up to 5 per cent of the work's "value", £400



Over-priced and left unsold: the Burne Jones drawing of Mrs Mary Gaskill, estimated at £12,000 to £16,000, failed to sell at even £8,500

for a colour illustration in the catalogue, and 1 per cent insurance costs.

Finally, for the flush client looking for an investment, is there any point in attempting to form a collection of bargain "bought in" lots? "For the private person taking a long-term view, the ones which have been around are the best to buy," said one dealer, adding, however, that such action could be "very dangerous".

Certainly most auctioneers are keen. Sotheby's, for example, did manage to sell an important pastel drawing of dancers by Degas, which went unsold at their impressionist sale last month.

Mr Nahum, who for many years was head of Sotheby's Victorian paintings department, recently bought an unsold Burne Jones drawing of Mrs Mary Gaskill. Estimated at £12,000 to £16,000, it had gone unsold at £8,500. He says he refused to bid against what he

believed was the reserve. He succeeded in buying it later at what he reckons was the true market price.

But it takes experience to ascertain whether there have been any genuine bids or not, and even dealers are often unable to tell. Mr Nahum was not so lucky with another unsold painting, because the auctioneers said they had sold it privately. The next he heard was that they had approached another dealer, who was not an expert in his field. "I bought it with the other dealer and lost half the profit," Mr Nahum says.

"The time to start buying unsold lots is when you think the market is at its bottom," said one art market warhorse. "Better to pay a dealer 10 per cent for advice than get highly subjective information from the auction houses."

Better still, he could well have said, sell to a dealer who is financially secure enough to buy your market-weary work outright, and keep it in store until it regains its freshness.

Review

Antique peak: Record for any Egyptian antiquity when a 4in-tall turquoise-glazed pottery hippopotamus sold for £528,000 to the London dealer Robin Symes. The previous record, just short of that price, was for a granite sculpture of the goddess Sekhmet. Full circle: Greece and Sotheby's come to a private sale agreement over the three best Cycladic sculptures, which now return to Greece. The rest sells impressively, a vessel circa 3,000 BC going for £88,000 (estimate, £12,000 to £18,000).

Head case: £55,000 for a Roman marble head of Antonius Pius which used to be employed by its Norfolk-based vendor as a decorative stone on a grass verge. Watershed: Record, at £286,000 (estimate, £150,000 to £200,000) for a watercolour by Thomas Girtin, thus elevating this artist into the same league as Turner. It was one of two previously unrecorded works found recently by Sotheby's experts in a client's linen chest.

Best English picture: Group portrait of the Colmore family by Johann Zoffany, which sold on its lower estimate at Christie's for £2.09 million.

English bops: Portrait of the violinist Paganini by George Patten (estimate, £80,000 to £100,000); Vesuvius from Posillipo (estimate, £800,000 to £1.2 million).

Preview

TODAY

A chance to buy the two fast launches which starred in chase sequences in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* at Phillips' annual sale of classic rivercraft and ephemera at Henley-on-Thames. Complete with simulated bullet holes, they are estimated at £16,000 and £10,000 respectively.

MONDAY July 16

Last full week of London sales before the pin-striped suits of auctioneers, experts, and porters take off for their summer break.

TUESDAY July 17

British drawings and watercolours at Christie's King Street features an Alma Tadema without the usual quota of lovelies: a stage set for *Coriolanus*, estimated up to £20,000.

WEDNESDAY July 18

Original Marc caricatures, including Cecil Boreau, Bianca Jagger (both estimated at £400), and a

lubricious big-eared Prince of Wales (£500) at Christie's South Kensington. As drawn by the late Mark Boxer, contributor to this paper from 1969 to 1983, and in later years the editor of *Tatler* magazine.

Almost 70 charming drawings by Alison Utley, who illustrated Little Grey Rabbit, at Christie's South Kensington. The drawings, which depict the adventures of Fuzzy-peg, Moidy Warp and company, not to mention LGR himself, were given by the artist to a three-year-old Welsh boy and rediscovered last year.

At Sotheby's, the so-called Dallas collection of Great Britain and the British Empire stamps, estimated at up to £1 million for 2,300 stamps. The name derives from the vendor's connection with the Texan oil city. Highlights include a Jamaican one shilling stamp inscribed "Queen Victoria of Jamaica Lady Supreme" whose now desirable fault is that the frame is printed upside down.

THURSDAY July 19

Sotheby's first sortie into the lucrative Lordships of the Manor business, and they are selling the most prestigious of all. The Lordship of Stratford-upon-Avon, hitherto of William Shakespeare, and estimated at £250,000-plus, was sold as recently as two years ago for £87,000. The impressive pot-pourri which makes up this sale includes 76 unpublished letters from Mahatma Gandhi to his prodigal son Harilal (estimate £40,000) and Sir Walter Raleigh's signed *History of the World* published in 1611 (£8,000).



Collector: Masks Facing up to mystery

BRITAIN has never featured high on the international masquerade calendar. Apart from a short, and arguably feeble period when the court cavorted in Vauxhall Gardens, puritanism has kept decadence at bay.

Now, because of the government's stringency over arts funding, the capital is being seduced by a series of fund raising balls, such as the surrealist ball in aid of the National Art Collections fund on July 28. Guests who pay up to £100, however, usually follow the British party-poop tradition: they may wear masks, but they take them off on arrival.

But their habits are likely to change, thanks to the first gallery devoted entirely to masks, and a competition to find Britain's best mask maker. The gallery and competition are the brain-child of Sally Fawl, a computer executive who "carnivalised out" in Venice, Basle and Mexico City, before setting up Masks for Dreams in Finsbury.

For the exhibition she has upgraded her memorabilia display from 34 countries with the eminently collectable products of our time. Here can be found a daz-



Cover-up: Sally Fawl with some of the masks she hopes will liberate British ball-goers

zling sequinned and pearted helmet made for a self-conscious bald man attending the Venice carnival; a bear mask, the fur created by gold-painted quills; a space age head-piece twanging with *objets trouvés* and a lugubrious old man, his wrinkles scribbled on paper.

The one which should get the prize for surreal effect is the 2ft wide sink plug by Charles O'Connor, a photographer and graphic designer. They are all for sale at prices ranging from £40 to £1,350.

Many come with famous names attached, such as the theatre designer Yolanda Sonnabend and Vin Burnham, creator of the Batman mask in the Warner Brothers film.

Masks have a long history,

both magical and theatrical. In primitive cultures they transform their wearers by their magic; for the Casanovas of 18th century Venice, the half-face mask with phallic nose was used initially during the carnival season, but later became a means of disguise all year round.

THE greatest investment value is to be found in the tribal masks, because they have a worldwide market. Highlights of the exhibition include a large funeral mask from the Baining tribe of Papua New Guinea, made of tree bark pulp, which is meant to be worn with a large phallus of the same fibre, while the wearer carries live snakes. It costs £1,250. A £250 wooden Sierr Leone mask of a woman comes complete with wooden

rolls representing fat around the neck to show "she's really rich". The world auction record is the £30,000 paid for a hooked-nose New Caledonian mask at Bonham's this spring. A good reason for masks, Miss Fawl says, is not investment or party-going, but therapy. "They liberate people," she says. She has seen dramatic transformations when people try them on: such as a Titania mask with a crown and "walked round the shop like a queen".

● *Masks for Dreams*, 80 Lupus Street, London SW1 (071-834 3689). Open 12 pm to 6.30 pm Tuesday to Saturday. ● *Surrealist ball*, Saturday July 28, Hay's Gallery, Tooley Street, London SE1. Tickets, £60, can be obtained from the NACF (071-821 0404)

Islam's cultural saviour

Portrait

MICHAEL Rogers, the first professor of Islamic Art and Archaeology in Europe, is the creation of an enigma - Nasser David Khalili.

Mr Khalili runs an elegant West End gallery, but it is virtually devoid of art. He is effusive on his life's mission - to establish worldwide appreciation of Islamic art - but circumspect about his personal details and the source of his wealth.



David Khalili, chairman

heritage of Islam," Mr Khalili says. "Endowing the chair is my first step."

generations of art collectors and dealers in the Islamic field". He was a graduate student at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, where the chair is being established.

A dealer until five years ago, he is now "an international adviser to collections and institutions, as well as collecting myself". He charges "fees, huge fees".

He was responsible for advising the American collector Arthur Sackler on his antiquities collection, displayed at the Royal Academy in 1987 - and the subject of international controversy when it was claimed that some items were fake. Mr Khalili says that no one ever raised this matter with him.

Now the Nasser David Khalili chair is being polished in preparation for its first incumbent, so let the Islamic art revolution begin.

At large

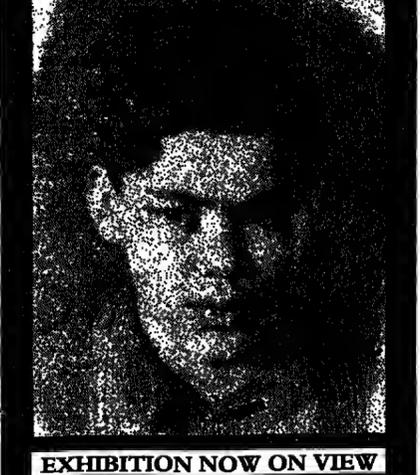
CHRISTIE'S has admitted it mislaid a painting featured in this column three weeks ago. *George the Bearded, Duke of Saxony*, by Lucas Cranach the Elder, was submitted to the auction house three years ago for valuation and possible sale. It was valued at £18,000, but subsequently went missing. A spokesman said the painting "came in here, unframed, measuring 7in by 5in. It was put in a jiffy bag after being catalogued, and was then mislaid. The place has been turned over and stock checks have been made." The insurance company "has accepted it as a loss".

The problem now is that the owner, an anonymous Englishman who, according to Christie's, "took two years to notice it had gone astray", is understood not to be too happy with Christie's valuation. Last week a magnificent double portrait by the same artist fetched £4.84 million at Christie's.

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ARTS

DANCE

Stepping into the clear

In September, Ivan Nagy becomes artistic director of the much-troubled English National Ballet. He has high expectations, as he tells Debra Craine



Ivan Nagy: Eager to meet the challenge as the director of the English National Ballet

Ivan Nagy delights in the irony of his being appointed artistic director of English National Ballet. Almost 30 years ago, the company gave him his first taste of Western culture, back in the early Sixties when he was still a teenager in Budapest. Several years later, coincidence stepped in when he married one of the company's ballerinas. But somehow, during a career as a leading dancer that took the Hungarian emigré around the world, Nagy never managed to perform with English National Ballet (or London Festival Ballet as it was then called). Now he is to run it.

In September, Nagy will assume artistic control of Britain's second largest ballet company, taking over from Peter Schaufuss. Currently director of the Cincinnati Ballet, he is coming to ENB at a particularly traumatic time. Schaufuss, artistic director for five years, was fired in January following "irreconcilable differences" with the board of directors. A nagging budget deficit and the continuing problem of where to perform in London added to the company's woes. Then in May, Schaufuss announced that about a dozen of ENB's dancers would be joining him in Berlin where he has become director of the Deutsche Oper Ballet.

So it is not an altogether happy time to be moving into Markova House, ENB's headquarters based away behind the Royal Albert Hall. But Ivan Nagy does not seem to be worried. "Yes, I'm frightened. Yes, I'm very excited. Heaven knows, I'm not that intelligent. I'm not a clairvoyant. I don't know what is waiting for me, but I think I can take that challenge."

Nagy is currently in London to see his new company perform in its annual summer season at the Coliseum and to take stock of the situation he has inherited. His first task is to replenish ENB's roster of 64 dancers following the defection to Berlin. Auditions are under way. "I'm not worried about it because through the years you have so many people begging, there are so many good dancers waiting for a job. New blood is coming in all the time." The twinkle in his eye says he already has a few lined up, although he will not name names yet. But unlike Schaufuss, Nagy will not be bringing dancers over en masse from Cincinnati.

One thing he especially likes about ENB is its international profile and more dancers from abroad can be expected to join the company. "When I look at dancers, I don't look at passport, age, I don't read recommendations. I just see how I feel. ENB has such an incredibly rich background, and the different ethnic backgrounds in the company mean people bring their own culture to it."

Nagy's own background testifies to his internationalist instincts. Born in Debrecen, Hungary, he joined the Budapest State Opera Ballet in 1960. After winning a bronze medal at the 1965 Varna competition, which brought him to international attention, his career blossomed when he decided to defect. "I hate the word defect and I never really became a famous defector either, because I kept it very private. I don't have a juicy story, you know, like jumping the border, something incredible like the Russian defectors."

In the West, he joined the National Ballet Company in Washington and New York City Ballet, before becoming a principal dancer with American Ballet Theatre, where he spent 11 years until his retirement in 1978. His career as a director began in 1981 at the Ballet del Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile. Five years later he became director of the Cincinnati Ballet.

"Nobody thought I would ever be a strong director. You know, they thought 'Ivan is so nice and kind, he cannot be a good father.' Well, I have two kids and I'm a very strong father. Even my own family was surprised. Nine years I survived as a director. I'm not that nice. You can't please everybody when you're a director."

When the offer from ENB came, Nagy remembered what the company had meant to him back in Budapest. "They made an incredible impression. It was just overwhelming because I was brought up in the Russian ballet and this was the first Western culture that I was able to see. I loved it."

"I danced all over the world and I never danced with Festival Ballet. I'm still married to Marilyn Burr, who was a ballerina with this company for so many years, and I'm taking over the company now. Life is very, very strange."

Taking over a company with a deficit of £260,000, Nagy is aware of the limitations a tight budget can place on his freedom to take artistic risks, and foresees the kind of struggles that go on when artistic decisions start running up the bills. While he will co-operate

with the board on money matters, artistic things are "my territory. We try to co-operate and we should co-operate, but artistic decisions - that is my responsibility."

He will, however, work to clear the deficit and do his bit to raise much-needed cash for ballets. "You have to fund-raise eventually... money does not grow under apple trees!" He has done it before, when he took his Santiago company to his adopted homeland "and the government pulled out. I had to find a way to bring the whole thing to New York. You know, I did it. I really realised that it's not as difficult as I thought. I think I will do it here, too."

If he had the money, he would like to give his dancers a wage increase in recognition of the brevity of their dancing careers ("At 35, you're a senior citizen"). He would also like to bring in new choreographers (the American Ben Steverino and the Argentinean Mauricio Weinrot are among those mentioned as favoured) and he is keen to work with Christopher Bruce as resident choreographer. As for himself, Nagy promises he will not be doing any choreography. "I think I would be bad and mediocre, and the world is filled with bad and mediocre choreographers. I certainly don't want to join them."

What about Nagy the dancer? Will the 47-year-old dancer's noble - former partner of Dame Margot Fonteyn, Natalia Makarova and Geleyn Kirland - ever take the opportunity to complete the circle and finally dance with the first Western company he ever saw? "I've been a senior citizen for 12 years now and I'm fat. No way!"

Straussian salute to a tireless enthusiast

FOR William Mann, music critic of *The Times* for 34 years, Richard Strauss was god, and Munich was his Mecca. He called his four daughters after characters in Strauss operas, and his important critical study of those operas, his programme notes and the translations which embodied his love and deep understanding of the composer outlived comparable responses in generations of readers and music-lovers.

It was fitting, then, that the William Mann Memorial Concert should be dominated by Strauss's music. After a performance of Mozart's *Magic Flute* overture and

CONCERTS

William Mann Memorial Festival Hall

Beethoven's Symphony No. 1, both of which lived somewhat more safely and less colourfully than Bill ever did, Barry Wordsworth, conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, turned at last to Strauss. Margaret Price was to have sung the *Four Last Songs* but it was reported that she had a throat infection. Heather Harper, whose past record is peerless but who

seldom sings in public these days, gamely stepped in at barely 24-hours' notice, though the late substitution meant that the advertised performance of Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* was dropped.

Bill, who had no time for mannerism or self-consciousness in either life or in music-making, would have warmed to her full-voiced, full-hearted performance. It was a timely reminder of what he once described as the "high protein content" of the songs. Rising to the sensibly brisk tempo set by Wordsworth, Harper brought rare energy and directness to Strauss's evocation of spring, September, sleep and man's last twilight. Words were made flesh and blood, the voice listened acutely, then rang out, barely stretched at all, answering the circling solo violin and the lark-song of the flutes.

Far from being *wander-made*, or tired of travelling (as Strauss's last song has it), Bill was touring Austria to research a new book on Schubert shortly before he died last September. Something of the confidence and vigour of life - as well as the fading of its light - is there, too, in these songs, and Heather Harper found it.

In the last line of all, the horn quotes Strauss's "transfiguration" theme from his orchestral tone-poem *Tod und Verklärung*. The Royal Philharmonic played it as a prelude to the *Four Last Songs* and did so with an enthusiasm which triumphed over the considerable difficulties of balance and pacing.



Hilary Finch

Earwig The Pit

TO ENTER that catacomb, the Pit, is like entering an inferno below Television Centre. Monitors hover over a stage on which cameramen shout machinery and a floor-manager relays orders from a mumbling booth above: "stand by, studio, mics and quiet". There are even plastic cups around the table where the creative people sit and the sofa on which the actors will soon perch, ready for action.

This is the setting for a soap-within-a-series-within-a-play. A team of scriptwriters presents episodes of a drama involving a feminist playwright impelled by financial need to write commercial tat and by professional pride to pass it off as other people's work. The result is a piece forever jumping from level to level. Ron Daniels, the director, does well to make it so clear.

In Paula Milne's play worth clarifying? The trouble is not the soap, a hilariously lachrymose portrait of parents who discover their children were swapped at birth. This is *Coronation Street* written by the characters of *Neighbours*. Nor is it altogether the serial, though this is more incept that Milne may realise.

Who would believe that a feminist dramatist, unable to pursue her own work because of the greed of the "ghost" hired to write her secret soaps, would "solve" her problem by employing a more prolific if more congenial one? More to the point, why should any audience sympathise with someone surreptitiously sell-

ing herself to keep her second house, her children at private school, and her reputation for socialist principle? Milne thinks it unreasonable of the television moguls to reject this hypocritical Rosa Luxemburg; but, even with peppy Lisa Harrow in the role, I would have pushed the off button. The real trouble however, is



Lachrymose: Ian Driver and Lisa Harrow in Earwig

Milne's handling of the people who created her. Though meant to be real, they too belong in an upmarket soap. Their divisions are absolute. Two are backs and opportunists, keen to foist pap on the masses, and two are troubled radicals who hope to infiltrate their own beliefs onto the small screen.

Milne might have made her preference for the latter pair more persuasive had they not talked so throatily about commitment, anger and their on-and-off affection. Neither Clive Russell, a bearded Scots parody of the late David Mercer, nor the personable Sally Edwards can inject life into "when you last spoke out at that story conference. I thought what strength, what conviction!" and other such plinking lines.

Now it is as if the characters of *Dynasty* were writing a sitcom for Channel 4.

Yet the play has its amusing moments and, since Milne herself is an experienced television writer, its revealing ones. There may not yet be a computer called Earwig, which deduces in advance what ratings will be. But television undoubtedly has its evil operators, its victimised writers, and maybe even the word URST, meaning the Unresolved Sexual Tension that can lift a failed soap into a popular triumph. We do not leave the Pit altogether empty.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Would Shakespeare pass? Discuss

Exams may be over, but you will never forget the experience of waiting in line, chugging a plastic bag full of pens, concentrating on not forgetting the quote from Gerard Manley Hopkins that you had written out last night in the bottom left-hand corner of the third sheet of cramped notes, in orange, next to the "salwar strawberry stallion sweet something" line written in blue, half obscured by coffee stains and by the little cluster of doodled love-hearts enclosing the initials of the lower sixth-former you would love forever. Incidentally, what was his name?

File in, silent and sweating (on exam days it is always hot and sunny, even during Wimbledon), while someone faints, someone else has hysterics and 16 people ask to go to the loo. From O-levels to Oxbridge finals, exam technique remains the same.

You spend 35 seconds reading the paper, 10 minutes planning the first essay and an hour and five minutes writing it. You look at the clock, decide not to panic, look at the other questions and panic.

"It's hard to think of a worse way of examining English than to ask someone to sit in an exam and be sensitive and imaginative in 45 minutes according to some kind of formula - and then do it again, and again," says the Oxford don Terry Eagleton. "It's a travesty of what the subject is about. Qualities of resilience count for more than intelligence."

Writing on one side of the paper only, and keeping a good eye on the clock, Nicola Murphy asks why teenagers continue to suffer from an absurd examination called English Literature

Wimbledon), while someone faints, someone else has hysterics and 16 people ask to go to the loo. From O-levels to Oxbridge finals, exam technique remains the same.

"Orwell was first and foremost a propagandist. Discuss." "Orwell was first and foremost an artist. Debate." "Jane Austen painted small bits of ivory. Was she a craftsman?" "George Eliot created loose, baggy monsters. Was she an incompetent seamstress?" "Dickens wrote potboilers.

Illustrate with at least three works." "Dickens boiled pots. Illustrate with at least three receipts." "Can the middle period oeuvre of Swift/Twickenham/Amis be read as the work of a humanist pessimist/misanthropic realist/bad tempered old sod?"

"Why do you think Milton went blind?" "When is a tragedy a history? When is a farce a satire? When is it time to go home? When will exams be abolished?"

If the likes of Eagleton and Malcolm Bradbury have their way, the answer to the last question will be a short, simple and, to many of us, sweet "Sooo". Bradbury teaches graduates at East Anglia. He has had 25 years setting exams (only some of them featuring his own ovels). Now, under his influence, East Anglia has consigned more than half of its exam papers to the dustbin. For those still at school, however, the prospects are not so good. Even Bradbury believes that exams do have a place on those rickety desks in those draughty, cavernous school gymnasiums.

"She takes up the bottle. Smiles as the blend of perfumed Bordeaux wines and fine old COGNAC reaches her LIPS. Drinks the last drop and leaves. 'Wh... you're going already?' 'Got to - don't want to be late... boyfriend's taking me ice-skating this evening.' THINK PETITE Petite Liqueur. From the house of Moët & Chandon.



"Oh Malcolm. It's so sweet of you to have our INITIALS strip-mixed into the Nevada desert. And ascending thirty-five floors with a hundredweight of CHOCOLATE SNAILS... well, it was such a lovely gesture. And now Petite Liqueur. How did you know? My FAVOURITE after dinner drink. She takes up the bottle. Smiles as the blend of perfumed Bordeaux wines and fine old COGNAC reaches her LIPS. Drinks the last drop and leaves. 'Wh... you're going already?' 'Got to - don't want to be late... boyfriend's taking me ice-skating this evening.' THINK PETITE Petite Liqueur. From the house of Moët & Chandon.

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BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Pure Maths - Quadratic Surfaces 7.05 Decision-Making: Myners' Wage Claim

7.30 Playdays (7) 7.50 Muppet Babies (7) 8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. Teenage magazine series. Guests today include the group James, ballerina Susan Hogard, and steppuncher Desert Orchid, while Martin Roberts's report from across the Atlantic is on drag racing. Presented by Charlotte Hinde and Ross King

10.55 Film: Lassie's Great Adventure (1963) starring Jon Provost and Richard Kiel. A made-for-television adventure in which Lassie and her owner are swept away in a hot air balloon and crash land in the Canadian mountains. Average Lassie film with the wonder-dog whimpering in a cute way and Kiel, who played Jaws in the Bond movies, as the Indian who befriends the couple. Directed by William Gauchon. 12.27 Weather

12.30 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35, 2.05, 2.35 and 3.05 Golf; action from the final round of the Bell's Scottish Open and Glasgow; 12.55 News; 1.00 Motor Racing: the final practice round for tomorrow's British Grand Prix at Silverstone; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 Racing from Lingfield; 4.55 Final Score

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional news and sport

5.20 The Flying Doctors: The Wrangler's Daughter. Undemanding drama series set in the Australian outback, where doctors have to fly out to their patients. A safari comes to town, causing chaos everywhere, and the home wrangler's mentally handicapped daughter goes missing.

6.05 'Allo 'Allo! The show which seems to be repeated even more often than The Sweeney, René and Michelle but the rest of the cast goes with them. (7) (Ceefax)

6.30 That's Showbusiness. Showbiz quiz in which celebrity panels battle it out to prove just how little they know about showbiz. Joining regular team captains Kenny Everett and Gloria Hunniford are Norma Hughes, Eamonn Holmes, Jan Ravens and Neil Innes. (Ceefax)

7.00 The Les Dennis Laughter Show. In the last of the comedy series Les displays his spoof talents in sketches based on the Blue Peter presenters, satellite television, health clubs and the Yellow Pages advert. (Ceefax)

7.30 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth introduces another round of the ruthless game show in which contestants bid to take over from each other. (Ceefax)

8.00 Miss Marmalade: A Pocket Full of Rye. Another repeated case of the crime-solving OAP to celebrate the centenary of Agatha Christie's birth. A City financier dies in his office, apparently poisoned. The only clue to his death is the rye he has in his

pocket and the poison itself, which has been derived from yew. And the man lived at Yew Tree Lodge. Enter Joan Hickson's deceptively fragile Miss Marple to second-guess the plodding CID. The usual strong support comes from Timothy West, Peter Davison and the late Fable Drake. (7) (Ceefax)

9.45 Athletics from Oslo. Action from the Mobil Bissett Games, culminating in live coverage of the "Dream Mile". The champions are David Coleman and Don Pickering. (Ceefax)

10.40 News with Michael Buerki. Sport and weather

10.55 Rocklife's Babies: Looking After Your Own. Repeated police series, narrated by an old 2-Career hand Leonard Lush with a somewhat faded to get the first time round. Perhaps there was not enough variety in the characters while Rocklife himself (Ian Hoag) was insufficiently developed. In this episode Rocklife and the team of cops investigate a series of assaults on women. (7) (Ceefax)

11.50 Film: Rasputin - the Mad Monk (1966) starring Christopher Lee (who also) in the name part, with Barbara Gurney and Richard Roxburgh. Confused historical drama from the house of Hammer, barely based on fact, which turns Rasputin into an insane monk bent on bringing destruction to Russia after he has wormed his way into the court of Tsar Nicholas II. Lee a stylish playing contrast for an ill. Directed by Don Sharp. 12.00am Weather

TO LONDON

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Ghost Train. With guests John Morkie and Sue Johnston from the Who's and pop group Big Country

11.30 The ITV Chat Show. The Vintage Video slot features Lionel Richie

12.30 Huddleberry Finn and His Friends: Huck Becomes the Victim. Outdoor adventures of Mark Twain's young heroes

1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather

1.10 A Beetle Called Derek. Andrea Arnold presents the show which tackles environmental issues in an upbeat way. Today's subject is transport

1.40 Coronation Street (7)

2.35 Film: Garden of Evil (1984) starring Gary Cooper, Richard Widmark and Susan Hayward. Misadventure adventure yarn, set in 1950s Mexico, about three disparate men escaping a woman through bandit country to save her husband. Directed by Henry Hathaway. 4.20 Cartoon Time

4.30 Katts and Dog. One policeman and his dog in an all-action series starring Jesse Collins and Fin Tin Tin

5.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather

5.15 Zorro: The Legend Begins. A new swashbuckling adventure series set in 19th-century California, starring Duncan Regehr

6.15 Canning and Bull's Casino. Tommy and Bobby invite contestants to try their luck in the casino, where tempting prizes are on offer. Musical interludes are provided by Hothouse Flowers and Leo Sayer. Last in the current series.

7.00 It's Beadell Jeremy Beadle - persecutes members of the audience to make fools of themselves in practical jokes and deprecating chaffs

7.30 Close to Home: Father and Family. Sloom about a perpetually harassed divorced vet (Paul Nicholas) bringing up two children. With Angered Fees (7) (Oracle)

8.00 The Saint. Postponed for a week by the World Cup, the Saint returns in the new guise of Simon Dutton, who looks like a tailoring act, and on this evidence is a less than charismatic successor to Ian Ogilvy and Roger Moore. The first



Simon Dutton: tailor-made Saint (8.00pm)

12.00am Film: Every Home Should Have One (1971) starring Mary Fyfe Murray, Shelley Barman and Judy Cornwell. While his wife is busy trying to clear the screens of easy images, a native-born screen writer himself in charge of a new project - creating a sexy image for porridge. Zany but obviously comedy shown in the United States under the title Think Dirty. Directed by Jim Clark. Followed by News headlines

1.45 Film: The Black Room (1955). Hollywood star Boris Karloff. A career seems to have been avoided when Baron de Berghem stole the black room where it is said one of his two girls had murdered the other, but when the old Baron dies, his wicked son Gregor has a secret entrance into the room and draws up plans to satisfy his bloodlust. One of Karloff's best roles and an excellent, understated thriller. Directed by Roy William Neill

3.10 Special Squad

4.05 The Hit Man and Her: Dino Morea

5.00 ITN Morning News with Ed Norman. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

6.50 Open University: Maths - Scaling and Powers 7.15 Birth of a Drug 7.40 Graphs, Networks and 8.05 Management in Post-Computing Education: 16+ - The Sheffield Study 8.30 Mechanisms of Pain Relief 8.55 The Social Impact of Rapid Industrialisation 9.20 Physics: Gaseous Diffusion 9.45 Stone and Stantonbury Art: Beckmann 1.55 Management in Post-Computing Education: 16+ - The Sheffield Study 10.35 From Making and Bridge Building 11.00 Voyages of Discovery 11.25 Gerneral by Emile Zola 11.50 Statistics: Regression 12.15 Physics: Phonons 12.40 Looking Again at Large Samples 1.05 The Contikite Story 1.30 Modern Art: Beckmann 1.55 Materials in Action: From Design to Manufacture 2.20 Ottoman Supremacy: the Sultanate, Istanbul 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 14 of the 91-part dramatisation of India's greatest epic poem, which is watched by more than 100 million viewers in India and other fewers here. In Hindi with English subtitles.

3.20 Animation Now: The Big Smit. Canadian animated film about a suburban couple (7)

3.30 Film: War and Peace (1956) starring Henry Fonda, Audrey Hepburn, Mel Ferrer, Herbert Ross, John Mills, Oscar Homolka. Filmed adaptation of Tolstoy's classic about a Russian family threatened by the Napoleonic invasion, partially rescued by the magnificent battle scenes and the fragile beauty of Miss Hepburn. Directed by King Vidor

6.50 Florence and Revenge: South of the Border. A documentary about Hollywood's fascination with all things south of the Mexican border

7.15 NewsView. The day's main news stories presented by Moira Stuart; Lynette Litvog reviews the week's news in pictures with subtitles. Weather

8.00 Jack Brymer: A Birthday Celebration. A tribute to the master pianist Jack Brymer, who is 75 this year. The film follows his career from the time he was a 17-year-old prodigy to his present position as principal clarinet in Sir Thomas Beecham's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, a post he occupied for 16 years. Includes a complete performance of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, and discussion of the Brymer phenomenon with John Dankworth, Norman Del Mar, Margaret Foot and Emma Johnson



Adrian Dunbar and Deshauna Molloy (9.10pm)

9.10 Theatre Night: Pentecost. The last stage play written by the Belfast writer Stewart Parker before his early death has four people marooned in a Belfast terrace house during the Ulster Workers' Council strike of 1974. The use of contemporary news film and the voice of the prime minister Harold Wilson, denouncing the strike suggest a political play, but Parker was always able to see Northern Ireland in a perspective wider than the battles on the streets. While the merits of the strike do provoke a

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Comic Book 7.30 International Times 8.00 Transport World Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning

9.25 Australian Rules Football presented by Steve Robillard

10.30 Hand in Hand. A programme for children, concentrating on those with hearing difficulties (7)

11.00 Check Out. Weekly programme tackling consumer problems (7) (Oracle)

11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Vintage 1950s western series starring Ward Bond and Robert Horton

12.30 California Off-Beat. Includes a report on California High School's annual: badminton contest. Presented by Wynne Freeborn

1.00 Film: A Year at Oxford (1938, b/w) starring Robert Taylor, Maureen O'Sullivan and Vivien Leigh. A self-centred American student arrives at Oxford, gets brought down to reality, falls in love with his biggest rival's sister and is nearly expelled. Agreeable period piece, the first production of the new wave of British by MGM. Directed by Jack Conway

2.55 Mr Rossi Goes Striking. Animated feature in which Bruno Bettelheim's celebrated character takes a trip to the Alps

3.05 Channel 4 Racing from York and the Curragh. Derek Thompson presents live coverage of the 3.10, 3.40, 4.15 and 4.45 races from York; and 3.45, 4.15 and 4.45 races from the Curragh

5.10 Brookside. Omnibus edition (7) (Oracle)

6.30 Tour de France 1990. Stage 13: Valard de Larn to St-Etienne, a distance of 154km

7.00 The World This Week includes a report on Albania's growing nationalist aspirations. Followed by Weather

8.00 The World This Week. This week's edition of the excellent environment documentary series deals with the search for a Japanese Imperial Navy submarine sunk in the South Pacific in 1944 (7)

9.00 Thirty-something. Comedy/drama serial looking at the lives of serial friends who have reached that thirty-something age. (Oracle)

9.55 Revolution - La Belle France. An animated tribute to Bastille Day by Bob Godfrey

10.00 Film: Chronicle of a Death Foretold (1957) starring Ornela Muti and Rupert Everett. Adapted from the Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel, this is a story of murder and revenge, but ultimately of love. A rich young man comes to Cartagena seeking a wife and duty finds one, only to discover that she is not a virgin. Her family, enraged that the prospective marriage is now off, force her to tell them who was the seducer and go after him to claim revenge. A powerful look at the strength of honour and the temptation of the passionate images and hypnotic settings which mark so much of the work of the director, Francesco Rosi

12.00am Verdict. In a vague spin-off from Hypotheticals is "jury" of 12, gently prodded by the moderator Helen Boden, chew over and give their verdict on a tricky personal dilemma. Tonight it is the case of a 27-year-old

single mother of two who owes £400 to a loan shark, with a week to pay, and has the chance to become a prostitute to raise the money. The other possible sources of cash have been neatly ruled out. She has kicked out her husband; she cannot earn much more than she receives from social security and there is no help available from her parents. Most of the programme is taken up by the jury's deliberations, punctuated by periodic cutting of video in The Twelve Angry Men with a single voice opposed to the other eleven and watch-opsions gradually shift. The standard of debate is generally high but the talking goes on a shade too long and there is some repetition. Boden's moderation is discreet and helpful

1.20 The Harp in the South. The second part of a short mini-series following the lives of an Irish-Australian family in the years after the second world war. (7) Ends at 2.15

TV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 2.35pm-5.00 Film: The World of Suzie Wong 11.10 Film: Little Miss Minkier 1.05am Stephen King's Women of Horror 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 US Pro-Surfing Tour.

BORDER
As London except: 1.00pm The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 2.35-5.00 Film: The World of Suzie Wong 11.10 Film: The Onion Field 1.30am The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Every-one a Winner 2.35 Film: The Candy Makers 4.50-5.00 Cartoon 11.10 Film: Nightwings 1.05am Kojak 2.00 Supermarket Jazz 3.00 Comedians 3.30-5.00 Precious 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

CHANNEL
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 West-swing 2.35-3.00 Film: Little 11.10 Film

GRAMPAIN
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Am Fasch 2.35-5.00 Film: The World of Suzie Wong 5.10-5.15 Cooragang 11.10 Film: Trading Places 1.20am Midge, Midge 1.30 The Twilight Zone 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

GRANADA
As London except: 1.00pm The Oldest 2.35-5.00 Film: The World of Suzie Wong 11.10 Film: The Onion Field 1.30am The Twilight Zone 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

HTV WEST
As London except: 2.35pm-5.00 Film: How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying 11.10 Film: A Reason to Live 1.00am Mimed, with Chadren 1.30 The Company 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 The Week in Nascar

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: No variations.

SCOTTISH
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Campbells 2.35-5.00 Film: Red River 11.10 Beauty and the Beast 12.05am Film: An Early Frost 1.55 Film: The House on Greenway Road 4.30-5.00 Wilton Top

TSW
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The South West Week 2.35-5.00 Film: Dark Victory 11.10 Film: The Onion Field 1.30am The Twilight Zone 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

TVS
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Wind-surf 2.35-5.00 Film: The 13th 2.00 The Mesters Today 2.30am Friday 3.30-4.00 Night Gallery

TYNE TEES
As London except: 1.00pm Film: I Only Arched 3.30 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle 11.10 Film: The Onion Field 1.30am The Twilight Zone 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

ULSTER
As London except: 1.00pm Film: From Here to Eternity 3.45 The A-Team 4.45-5.00 Cartoon Time 11.10 Film: The Onion Field 1.30 The Twilight Zone 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 2.35pm Film: The Black Room 4.50-5.00 Cartoon Time 12.05am Film: House of the Long Shadows 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 Florence or the Life in the Chelsea.

S4C
Starts: 6.00am Early Morning 9.25 Australian Football 10.30 Hand in Hand 11.00 Check Out 11.30 Lovers More Mink and Midge 12.00 The Running Programme 12.30 East, East, East 1.30 Europe Express 2.00 Film: Seven Keys 3.05 Racing from York and the Curragh 5.10 Brookside 6.30 News from France 7.00 Cinema 2000 7.30 Newsday 7.40 Gweld Ser 8.25 Y Slight 9.05 Film on Four: Lamb 11.10 Brande 11.50 Gweld Mow 12.05 Verdict 1.20 The Harp in the South 2.15 Dweird.

ITE 1
Starts: 10.50am The Ghost of Monk's Island 11.05 Bob Rogers in the 25th Century 11.55 Fitter's Cove 12.20 Adventure Bound 1.10 The Black Widow 2.00 News followed by The Path of the Ram 3.00 Film: The Ghost Goes West 4.25 Film: Don't Change Your Mind 6.00 The Angelus 6.05 News 6.15 Around the World in 80 Days 6.30 Sports Cartoon Time 6.35 The Optimist 7.05 The Flying Doctors 8.00 News 8.05 News 8.20 Jack the Ripper 11.10 News followed by Film: Colour Me Dead 12.25am Close.

NETWORK 2
Starts: 5.50pm News 12.30 Sports Stand-up 5.55 The Late Great Man 6.25 Perfect Stranger 6.55 Nuchit 7.00 News 7.30 The Tracy Ullrich Show 6.00 News followed by The Best of Target 10.40 BB King 11.45 Close.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW 5.00am Gary King 7.00 The Liz and Jack Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 10.30am Radio 1 Breakfast 11.00am Radio 1 Breakfast 11.30am Radio 1 Breakfast 12.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 12.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 1.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 1.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 2.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 2.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 3.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 3.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 4.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 4.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 5.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 5.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 6.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 6.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 7.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 7.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 8.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 8.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 9.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 9.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 10.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 10.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 11.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 11.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 12.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 12.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 1.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 1.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 2.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 2.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 3.00pm Radio 1 Breakfast 3.30pm Radio 1 Breakfast 4.00pm Radio 1 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4,000 Albanians get first taste of Western freedom

FROM PETER GREEN IN BRINDISI

FOUR thousand bewildered Albanian refugees arrived at the south Italian port of Brindisi yesterday after an overnight journey across the Adriatic Sea. They had been camped out in Tirana's Western embassies for two weeks, having rushed the gates and jumped the walls in an effort to leave Europe's last Stalinist state.

About 2,000 of the refugees had been in the West German embassy. They left Brindisi docks on three medically equipped relief trains bound for West Germany.

Meanwhile, the Maltese-flagged Orient Star, with about 1,000 refugees from the French embassy, was steaming directly for the French Mediterranean port of Marseilles. A group of 29 Albanians who had taken refuge in

the Greek embassy flew into Athens from Brindisi yesterday. Antonis Samaras, the foreign minister, welcomed them at the airport, and said Greece would do its utmost to provide "the welfare and care which they need".

First off the ship at Brindisi were a newborn baby, held by an Italian Red Cross nurse, and the child's beaming mother. Italian soldiers and Red Cross workers greeted the refugees with hot tea, warm milk and cakes. "I don't know why I left. Please, ask me later," said Agron Qelibari, aged 30, a car mechanic, who climbed the wall of the Western German embassy.

Few had any baggage, and a number were shoeless and shirtless. They queued eagerly for new clothes and packages of food. Some said they had

been political prisoners, but most appeared to want to leave because they could no longer stand living in a country they called a prison camp.

Paride Derani, aged 65, left to escape the country's "tyrannous" regime. He said he spent 28 years in prison and was regularly tortured. He said that for seven months he ate only a slice of bread a day.

Gerta, a 23-year-old factory hand, said only Communist party members and the Sigurimi secret police lived well. "They eat much meat, they earn much money and they hit us." Of her plans, she said: "First I want to make a holiday on a beach."

Some refugees appeared to have had their heads shaved recently, a punishment reserved for prisoners, but it was impossible to tell whether they included common-law criminals. Doctors tending to the first arrivals said they saw no signs of a large number of criminals or criminally insane among the refugees.

On the whole, they said, the refugees were in surprisingly good shape. "Many of the children were vomiting and suffered from diarrhoea and were dehydrated from the stay in the embassies," Dr Paolo Miano said. "The main problem is that they are hungry." While their general health was good, "their hygiene is very bad," he said.

At least 17 refugees were taken to hospital in Brindisi, and Dr Domenico Profico, said many had twisted ankles and broken bones from climbing over walls into the embassies.

Refugees interviewed could not confirm that there had been scuffles in the Albanian port of Durres, from where they sailed, as more people tried to join the exodus. They said the 21-mile route from Tirana to Durres was lined with armed soldiers and policemen, and an armed policeman was on each bus.

Several said they thought that no members of the Sigurimi, Albania's dreaded secret police, were among them. "They all jumped back over the embassy wall," said one young woman, who asked not to be named.



High summer: a young man sunbathing on the steps of Nelson's column in London's Trafalgar Square yesterday

Britain heads for hot, dry weekend

BY ALAN HAMILTON

HOT weather brought chaos for motorists yesterday with roads being closed as temperatures soared into the 80s.

The A34 in Hampshire, the main holiday route between the South Coast and the Midlands, had to be closed between Winchester and Newbury after the melting road surface made driving impossible.

Hot, dry weather for most of the country over the weekend was forecast yesterday by the London Weather Centre, and traffic jams to popular seaside resorts by the motoring organisations. The balmy conditions enjoyed by southern districts during the past two days are expected to spread to Scotland and Northern Ireland, although eastern coasts are likely to remain cool.

Yesterday's temperatures in the south failed to reach those of Thursday, when 29.2C (85F) was recorded in Cardiff. South Wales and the Severn area were, none the less, among the warmest places, with 29C (84F) recorded at Ross-on-Wye. In much of Scotland the weather remained disappointingly cool, with Edinburgh recording only 14C (57F), and Shetland struggling to reach 13C (55F), about average for the time of year in the northern isles.

The past two days have failed to approach the records set in July last year, when the temperature at Heathrow airport touched 34.2C (93F).

But the warm spell is pleasing farmers in most areas, with haymaking under way and winter barley harvesting ten days early in the south. Some Welsh farmers, however, have reported a heavy crop of unusually large potatoes, leading to fears of low prices.

Firemen in Northamptonshire are answering dozens of calls throughout the county because alarms are being set off by an invasion of thunder flies.

A spokesman for the brigade said that at least 50 per cent of call-outs over the past two days had been to faulty alarms being set off by the insects, which shelter in smoke alarms during heatwaves and set them off.

Final date for Neal

Stout effort

Dream chance

Star of India

Geddes ahead

Wind change

Gorbachev scorn as mayors quit

FROM REUTER IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev said yesterday that he felt contempt for communists who broke away from the party this week as the radical mayors of the country's two major cities announced they were joining the exodus.

As the party's 28th congress voted for a new Central Committee, Mr Gorbachev told the American CBS television network in a Kremlin interview: "Those who leave (the party) now and seek refuge elsewhere, I view with contempt. There's no question. I am not veering from my course and I have many supporters."

Mr Gorbachev was speaking during the final hours of a marathon congress in which his defeat of the conservatives was underscored by the withdrawal from the political stage of hard-line champion Yegor Ligachev. The departure of the mayors - Moscow's Gavril Popov and Anatoly Sobchak of Leningrad - came after the withdrawal from the party on Thursday by Boris

Yeltsin and a walkout by members of the radical Democratic Platform (DP).

Although the move, announced by the DP leader Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, was a clear sign of the crumbling of the once monolithic party, it also brought a split in the platform itself with dozens of its congress delegates refusing to leave.

Mr Gorbachev, in his first public comment on the resignations, said he had expected Mr Yeltsin's announcement and was not personally worried by his departure. "But I regret it politically," he added.

Political chief: The Soviet Defence Minister yesterday announced the appointment of Colonel-General Nikolai Shlyaga, a hardline proponent of communist control of the military, as political chief of the armed forces, taking over from General Alexei Lizichev, aged 63, who is retiring.

Gorbachev outflanked, page 8
Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,346

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10

11 12

13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

21 22

23 24

25 26 27

- ACROSS**
- Hurrying south to give battle (8).
 - Interest of soldiers in France to capture Prince (6).
 - A scale of quantity (6).
 - Instrument for administering justice? (8).
 - Insult my claim of competence in defence (8).
 - Start to use inside tap (6).
 - Poor Tom gets head of BBC to appear in *The Listener* (5).
 - Paris is so devastated by eruptions (9).
 - Positoo for drawing old friend (9).
 - Judge parking place outside (5).
 - Curious round out (6).
 - Hero is in pain, with stomach upset (8).
 - Look at the points of these canines (3-5).
 - Definitely decided water was tops (6).
 - Range of shelter unknown, I'm told, at first (6).
 - Fifth accumulates with years spent down here (8).
- DOWN**
- Equip platoon with identification (7).
 - Sort of sketch Tom paid for promptly (5-4).
 - Observe it's now liquid? (6).
 - Violous engaged with this proviso (7,8).
 - Unintended result of premature explosion (8).
 - Captures a bishop - *hinc illae lacrimae*? (7).
 - Advance warning of rising about to rock state (9).
 - See wheel in movement going round right way (9).
 - Able to review article *The Tablet* announced? (9).
 - Get forward in two ways, but under one metre (8).
 - Settled housing workers' fare (7).
 - The batsmen are playing soundly, in that respect (7).
 - Sort of people the Cobhens might be? (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,345

POSTMAN CROSSWORD

NEW GUINEA GENE
TRENK VY G L
GREY EMIR ACH
S
RUSSIAN HALIBUT
ALON COMPASS CREWATE
TEI H H H
COWS WERE RAVES
AHP A E N E N
KNELL RETICENCE
R O E A T U S
ENTER THE LIST

Solution to Puzzle No 18,346

POSTMAN CROSSWORD

U A P A M H U P
B I T T O N B E N J A M I N
F O R E L O C H
W A N N O N E B A L M E
C L E T V O C H N
H E L O T N E W M A R K E T
A C B L E R E O
H A G I T E R L E G U M I N
E Y O G I
T R A C U P I N I O N I C U
M A D A R O N I W E A R L Y
E A R W O I S A
S A I L M O N N U G A T O R Y

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ROKE
a. Steam or smoke
b. To transplant vegetables
c. A boilerman's shovel

CLARABELLA
a. A loose woman
b. A steam engine
c. An organ stop

WAMPISH
a. To brandish
b. Indecent
c. Bad Indian barber

AUTOPTIC
a. Self-vest
b. Obsessed with motor cars
c. Pick your own fruit

Answers on page 15

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Dorset, Hampshire & IOW 702
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Essex 705
Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs & Greater West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent 706
Stratford, Warwick & Worcester 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N W England 716
W & S Yorks & Dale 717
N E England 718
Cumbria & Lancashire District 719
S W Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
Central Scotland 723
Glasgow & N Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
Cairn Ross, Orkney & Shetland 726
Maiden 727

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 12 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).
*Includes pollen count.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M1 on slip roads 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M25-N4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

WEATHER

England and Wales will have another fine, sunny and very warm day. Central and northern Scotland will be cloudy at first becoming brighter with sunny spells. Orkney and Shetland, with eastern coastal areas of England and Scotland could have patchy cloud, although there will be some sunshine. Northern Ireland and south-western Scotland will have a dry and warmer day. Outlook: Sunny and very warm, some thundery rain spreading from the west on Monday.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t-thunder; d-drizzle; f-fog; g-gust; s-sleet; sn-snow; l-l; bar; c-cloud; r-rain

Temp	C	F	Temp	C	F	Temp	C	F
Algeria	29	79	Nepal	27	81	Shekhar	14.8	59
Alex'ria	27	81	Nigeria	27	81	Shetland	14.4	58
Algiers	28	82	Madagascar	14	57	Edinburgh	14.9	59
Amsterdam	19	66	Mexico	22	72	Exmouth	14.5	58
Athens	32	90	Miami	32	90	Torquay	14.7	58
Bahrain	41	106	Moscow	27	81	Falmouth	14.8	59
Barcelona	25	77	Montreal	21	70	Penzance	13.3	56
Belgrade	22	72	Perth	17	63	Wick	14.7	58
Berlin	19	66	Porto	28	82	Guernsey	14.2	58
Bermuda	30	86	Rangoon	29	84	Birmingham	12.6	55
Bombay	31	88	Rio de J	24	75	Belfast	11.8	53
Buenos Aires	31	88	Santiago	21	70	London	12.5	55
Calcutta	32	90	Sao Paulo	16	61	Manchester	12.3	54
Canberra	17	63	Seoul	28	82	Nottingham	12.3	54
Cairo	32	90	Singapore	28	82	Cardiff	14.5	58
Chengde	17	63	Sydney	28	82	Shekhar	14.8	59
Chicago	28	72	Taipei	28	82	Edinburgh	14.9	59
Copenhagen	15	59	Tokyo	27	81	Exmouth	14.5	58
Colombo	25	77	Toronto	22	72	Torquay	14.7	58
Copenhagen	15	59	Winnipeg	17	63	Falmouth	14.8	59
Cyprus	16	61	Zurich	25	77	Penzance	13.3	56
Dhaka	36	97				Wick	14.7	58
Dublin	16	61				Guernsey	14.2	58
Dubrovnik	20	68				Birmingham	12.6	55
Farø	23	73				Belfast	11.8	53
Geneva	23	73				London	12.5	55
Helsinki	15	59				Manchester	12.3	54
Hong Kong	27	81				Nottingham	12.3	54
Houston	27	81				Cardiff	14.5	58
Istanbul	27	81				Shekhar	14.8	59
Jeddah	37	99				Edinburgh	14.9	59
Johannesburg	17	63				Exmouth	14.5	58
Karachi	31	88				Torquay	14.7	58
L. Pelagos	24	75				Falmouth	14.8	59
L. Anzoli	31	88				Penzance	13.3	56
Liebo	54	129				Wick	14.7	58
Luomo	29	79				Guernsey	14.2	58
Lyons	17	63				Birmingham	12.6	55
Luemburg	27	81				Belfast	11.8	53
Laos	38	100				London	12.5	55
Maiden	21	69				Manchester	12.3	54
Moscow	27	81				Nottingham	12.3	54
Mumbai	31	88				Cardiff	14.5	58
Nairobi	25	77				Shekhar	14.8	59
Osaka	27	81				Edinburgh	14.9	59
Paris	17	63				Exmouth	14.5	58
Perth	17	63				Torquay	14.7	58
Porto	28	82				Falmouth	14.8	59
Rangoon	29	84				Penzance	13.3	56
Rio de J	24	75				Wick	14.7	58
Santiago	21	70				Guernsey	14.2	58
Sao Paulo	16	61				Birmingham	12.6	55
Seoul	28	82				Belfast	11.8	53
Singapore	28	82				London	12.5	55
Sydney	28	82				Manchester	12.3	54
Taipei	28	82				Nottingham	12.3	54
Tokyo	27	81				Cardiff	14.5	58
Toronto	22	72				Shekhar	14.8	59
Winnipeg	17	63				Edinburgh	14.9	59
Zurich	25	77				Exmouth	14.5	58

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Temp	C	F	Temp	C	F
Belfast	17	63	Guernsey	20	68
Blackpool	21	70	Jersey	24	75
Bristol	25	77	London	24	75
Cardiff	28	82	Manchester	24	75
Edinburgh	14	57	Newcastle	18	64
Glasgow	16	61	Perth	16	61

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 27C (81F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 18C (65F). Humidity: 6 pm to 6 pm, 12.5 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,000 mbars = 29.53 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Cardiff Weather Centre, 29C (84F); lowest day temp: Cape Horn, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Prestwick, 18C (64F). Highest rainfall: Heme Bay, Kent, 15.0 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 25C (77F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 15C (59F). Humidity: 24 hr, 2.01 cm. Bar: 24 hr, 6 pm, 1000 mbars = 29.53 in.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 24 hr, 6 pm, 1000 mbars = 29.53 in.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lit at 7.45 am today and tomorrow at 6.45 am, 7 am and 5 pm.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.4	6.8	6.42	6.8	London Bridge	7.24	6.4	7.24	6.5
Aberdeen	5.58	4.0	6.47	3.6	Aberdeen	6.49	3.6	7.42	3.5
Dover	10.46	6.9	10.19	8.2	Dover	4.27	6.9	4.50	6.1
Falmouth	5.30	4.7	6.01	4.5	Falmouth	10.47	4.4	11.05	4.6
Glasgow	5.30	4.7	6.01	4.5	Glasgow	6.11	4.6	6.48	4.3
Hull	5.30	4.7	6.01	4.5	Hull	5.24	3.6	5.51	3.7
Liverpool	3.51	8.6	4.15	6.3	Liverpool	10.50	3.8	10.50	6.1
Newquay	10.20	6.2	10.26	6.9	Newquay	10.51	6.0	11.20	6.1
Oban	9.45	4.7	9.57	4.9	Oban	11.06	3.2	11.06	3.2
Perth	5.25	6.2	6.01	4.5	Perth	10.50	4.6	10.49	4.8
Southampton	11.07	6.4	11.34	6.5	Southampton	4.20	4.0	5.00	4

Traditional values must be Fifa's goal

"IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times." And in the end it was a tale of two countries. Argentina and West Germany contested a World Cup final that I wish we could all forget. In their different ways, both finalists defined the proper spirit and purpose of the game. Many feel that their peculiar passage to the final, through the OK Corral of penalties, also defined that spirit and purpose.

For four weeks Italia '90 gave me some of the sweet drama and passion and sadness of sport. It also gave me the down side; and, maybe, those down reflections will be the enduring ones, because they were predominant in that awful final.

The tournament did not make history. It was long on drama, short on adventure. It had great players, but not so many as we have seen in previous World Cups. It had no abundance of great referees and we needed them. It was short on goals, and short on great ones. But there were still some to savour, by Fiat, Stojkovic, Matthaus, Milla, Schuster, Baggio, for example.

Most of all, in this "short" list,

Italia '90 was very short of great teams, and short of the great tactics and strategies that go with them.

On the positive side, the tournament seemed to be well organised. (I have been to major sports events that were not, and the cracks always show). Security was effective, thank goodness, and that has helped English clubs back into Europe next year. Public interest, world wide, was very high; we saw again the immense impact of sport and on society. Great sporting occasions, events and issues touch people's lives — will politicians ever learn that?

There were thrills, unforgettable moments, great sporting deeds. But the good and the bad were always mixed, and they often included more than a dash of the ugly.

Inevitably, much pressure was on the host nation, the *Azzurri*. I loved to watch Baggio, a rare find, and Schuster, with the eyes and appetite of a wolf, and there was talent throughout the side. But why were they so short on ambition? Why so content to settle for one goal, when they should have scorched the earth towards



COMMENTARY

SEBASTIAN COE

their opponents' net? And what was the need, with so much skill, for ugly tackles and time wasting? In the end, they were victims (once again) of their own doubts, or perhaps of the weight of Italian passions and expectations.

Another positive aspect has to be the African arrival. Cameroon caught everyone's imagination (although, we regretted the harsh side to their game). Was there ever a "supersub" like Milla? Such a fluent player, one we should have seen in his prime. Before too long, an African team surely will win a World Cup final.

My main interest was in the way players reacted to performing at this peak of ambition and competition. Mentally, I walked out with them into the stadiums, into the glare of attention. I felt the effort of concentration to produce their relaxed best amid the heat

and tension. Of course, I was not there, and could not see behind the scenes.

I saw only the gladiators in their arenas, in the fierce Italian sun. Sometimes, the strained, gaunt faces reminded me of their Roman slave forebears, waiting for the thumbs up or down from the stands, from the benches. Not many looked to be enjoying their sport in the stadiums.

One exception was Paul Gascoigne, now one of that rare breed of people known to millions by an affectionate nickname. His approach, his behaviour, his performance, all filled me with admiration. This is no ordinary player. Here he was, on the largest football stage of all, panding his brave talent with more purpose than he sometimes showed at White Hart Lane. Clearly, he is a talent and personality that wants

to perform at the highest level. My heart went out to him in that marvellous semi-final against the Germans, when Beckenbauer and his men committed against him a professional foul. "Gazza" chased and tackled, a player driven, and the German bench (chorus-like) erupted. Their reactions may have got Gascoigne the yellow card, and he knew at once he was out of the final, if England were to get there. We saw then his outh, disbelieving tears, and the picture filled papers.

Some judged his reaction out of place. What nonsense. Here was a player who must have felt cheated out of a place in a World Cup final; maybe, his only chance of playing in the biggest game in his profession.

Sometimes, commentators and watchers expect too much of the performer. Sport is an emotional business. In something like a World Cup, the best of players are close to the nerve ends. For a young man like Gascoigne, in those circumstances, tears were inevitable. In a less controlled player, the reaction would have been rage.

The German diving and drama schools were seen again in that final. They contributed to the two sending-offs. I thought the Argentinians guilty of unfair play, but it was not the worst we have seen in this or previous tournaments. It is the German behaviour that will live longer in my memory. I believe they had a team that deserved to win this world championship, but I also believe their approach ill befits the title.

My campaign for fair play in modern sport, for "sportsmanship" is well known to readers of *The Times*. From this point of view, the tournament was a happy one for the English. It was a timely innovation for Fifa to award a fair play cup, because this is the battle of football and sport in general. Italia '90 showed us on many occasions the dangers and the problems; not least, in the final.

What a thrill for England to win that award. I think we deserved it. Players like Lineker, in particular, and Walker and Wright, demonstrated the old, essential values of sporting competition — playing to the rules, taking the knocks and referees' decisions in their stride,

and not seeking unfair advantage. In his glorious last outing, Peter Shilton deserved to be part of such an award.

Problems lie ahead for Fifa. This World Cup began and ended with two players sent off. The proper boundaries of fair and unfair play are well known; an issue is the competence of officials, and their subjective and consistent judgments. The IOC faces similar problems with Olympic boxing.

I like the thought of two referees for football matches at world level. Therein may lie the solution to a vital concern. Before the next World Cup, in football's new frontier, the United States, some such action is required to help restore the old values in a game that has demonstrated again its continuing ability, through television, to gain new audiences.

For such audiences, drama is king, and the four weeks of the World Cup provided plenty. But sport has to give more if it is to stay true to its traditions. We hope and look for the old and new skills, for style and grace, and for sportsmanship. Do we ask too much?

Worcestershire attempts to lift elusive cricket cup when they meet Lancashire in Benson & Hedges final

Botham's relish for big occasion may be crucial

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

BACK IN 1963, when the arrival of cup cricket was regarded with such lofty suspicion that *Wisden* declined to credit the sponsors, Worcestershire reached the inaugural final and lost. This is a distressing habit they have been practising ever since.

Today, at Lord's, they contest their sixth cup final, still pursuing their first win. Since 1963, when Worcestershire's downfall was plotted by one E. R. Dexter, the club has won the county championship five times and the Sunday league three times. In the late 1980s, they became the most glamorous and accomplished sides in the country, yet all their money, talent and influence could not buy a cup triumph.

The bookmakers, with the support of recent form, believe they will be beaten yet again today, when their Ben-

Lord's teams

LANCASHIRE (from top): D P Hughes (captain), G D Mendis, M A Atherton, G Fowler, G Lloyd, N H Fairbrother, M Watterson, Alison Abram, P J DeFreitas, I O Austin, W K Heggs, P J Martin, P J W Alton.

WORCESTERSHIRE (from top): P A Neale (captain), S C Currie, M Weston, G Hick, O B Oliveira, I T Botham, S J Rhodes, R K Illingworth, P J Newport, S R Lampitt, G R Dibley, N V Radford, S M McEwan, P Bent, D A Leathford.

Impressos: J H Hampshire and N T Pines.

ump and Hedges Cup opponents are Lancashire, who have won five cup finals while Worcestershire have been losing five. I have a hunch they are wrong.

No one can doubt Lancashire's credentials to win. Over the past five years they have carefully constructed a team with no obvious weakness in overs cricket. Worcestershire, however, have left behind an inauspicious start to the season and come to Lord's in their most efficient form.

Cricketers being a superstitious breed, they had also

come with the intention of altering the routines which brought them such a conspicuous lack of success in the past. Last night, for instance, they abandoned the traditional team dinner and early curfew.

"It was left entirely to the players," explained the club chairman, Duncan Fearnley. "They decided they wanted to treat this one like any normal game. We have had too many finals with the big hype, the formal dinner, the early night and then nothing happening. So the lads were left to their own devices once they had travelled down in the coach."

Fearnley was on the playing staff when Worcestershire reached that first Gillette Cup final 27 years ago. He did not make the final XI, being more involved with helping to win the second team championship at the time. He only played two cup ties before his retirement in 1968.

There was a distinguished absentee when Worcestershire

last lost a final. Ian Botham was still recovering from the back surgery which would have ended the career of a weaker man. Today's occasion will be viewed, by many, as a farewell to the big time for one of the game's greatest characters. Do not, however, expect Botham to share that opinion.

In his endearingly cock-sure way, Botham simply cannot understand why the England selectors continue to overlook him. He still has designs on a tour to Australia this winter and will see today's game as the stage on which he can convince everyone of his worth. It is his first final for Worcestershire and his relish for the big occasion is one further reason why I believe they will win.

Graeme Hick's urge to compensate for his failure in 1988 is another factor. So too is the news that Worcestershire's chronic injury problems are clearing at an opportune time, while Lancashire have suddenly developed crises of their own.

Worcestershire have been without their three senior seam bowlers, Dille, Radford and Newport, for much of the season but all three could be in the side today.

Lancashire travelled south with doubts persisting about Fowler's unconventional brilliance with the bat and Allott's conventional economy with the ball.

Graham Dille is to have a fourth operation in two years on his troublesome right knee next Tuesday.



Sweeper system: Brown turning the wrists profitably against the Indians yesterday

Minor Counties find little to fear in Indians' attack

By TONY WINLAW

TROWBRIDGE (final day of three): *Minor Counties* drew with the Indians.

GARY Brown, aged 25, the younger brother of Middlesex's Keith Brown, followed his hundred on the first day with a superbly compiled innings of 89 not out here as the Minor Counties safely thwarted any Indian hopes of dismissing them cheaply. They had started 219 runs behind and, although the first wicket fell in the fourth over, a most controlled second-wicket partnership of 157 by Brown and Durham and Folland, of Devon, soon assured a draw.

The Indians, in fact, had to catch a flight from Heathrow to Glasgow where they play Scotland today, and the match ended early, at 4pm, with Minor Counties 24 runs ahead at 243 for two.

India's bowlers delivered accurately enough — Kapil Dev conceding just 20 runs off 16 overs — while posing little threat. But this was a perfect batting pitch upon which Brown, Folland and later Burn applied themselves admirably. It is certainly no wonder that the

Minor Counties have chosen Trowbridge as their venue to play touring sides for the past three years.

Roberts, a Buckinghamshire policeman who batted so well for 85 in the first innings, was soon caught at third slip by India's captain, Azharuddin, but then came the telling second-wicket partnership at almost a run a minute.

The left-hander Folland, a schoolmaster at Blundell's, played a classical innings of strokeplay and judgement and was, indeed, a perfect example for schoolboys watching yesterday. His straight driving proved a most profitable stroke and his footwork to the left-spinner, Raju, was a special delight.

Raju turned the ball and beat the bat on occasions and finally won the duel, with a quicker ball, when Folland played his only suspect shot, the sweep, and was bowled for 82. This was a fine innings by the 26-year-old Folland, who first appeared for Devon aged 19 and then played one season for Gloucestershire Second XI.

Brown had played the eff-

ective role as second string to Folland and he continued to bat with perfect judgment when joined by his Durham colleague, Burn (47 not out), for the third-wicket partnership. These two safely added 80 runs and India were frustrated to the end.

The Indians declared at 512 for six, the total they had reached at the close of the second day. Their bowlers were yesterday faced with the stiff but telling task of dismissing these Minor Counties batsmen. Trowbridge's pitch or not, this was still disappointing bowling by the touring team.

MINOR COUNTIES: First Innings 233 for 9 (G R Dibley 105, M J Roberts 85, A Kumble 6 for 49).

Second Innings: 89 (G R Dibley 105, M J Roberts 85, A Kumble 6 for 49).

Total (2 wickets): 263 (A Lester 82, Greenwood 68, Thomas, A Folland, R A Ewart, M J Taylor and K A Arnold did not bat).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-108, 3-154, 4-171, 5-220, 6-243.

BOWLING: Kapil Dev 16-0-29, 1-64; Srinivasan 8-0-42-0; Kumble 16-4-64-0.

INDIANS: First Innings 512 for 6 dec (P J Shastri 105, M Azharuddin 105, S R Tendulkar 65, V V Ramesh 50).

Chariots of Fire tribute in China

By JOHN GOODBODY

A MEMORIAL sign is to be laid in northeast China to mark the grave of Eric Liddell, the 1924 Olympic 100 metres champion, whose exploits were depicted in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

The Eric Liddell Memorial Trust, which will also offer training grants to three young athletes, has signed a provisional agreement with the authorities in Weifang city, Shandong, for the tribute to the Scot, who became a missionary after his athletic career, and died in a Japanese internment camp in China on February 21, 1945.

Charles Walker, the founder of the trust, who has been working on the project for the past year, said in Hong Kong yesterday that it was sad that so little was known about Liddell after the 1924 Olympics in Paris and particularly about his death.

Liddell died from a brain tumor and his grave is marked by a wooden cross that fellow internees could only inscribe with shoe polish, because of the absence of sharp instruments.

Liddell was perhaps the most extraordinary natural talent of the generation of athletes that was such an inspiration at the 1924 Games. He was essentially a sprinter and in 1924 won British 100 yards record-holder with 9.7sec. His speed and strong physique also brought him international rugby honours for Scotland.

However, he learned well before his departure for Paris in 1924 that the 100 metres heats would be run on a Sunday and, being a devout Christian, he opted to run just in 400 metres, his secondary event and one for which he was an outsider.

This opened the way for Harold Abrahams, the other leading figure depicted in the film, to win the 100 metres while Liddell improved his best time by two seconds to take the 400 metres.

He retired the following year and after graduating from Edinburgh University, left Scotland to teach chemistry and mathematics at the Anglo-Chinese school in China, where he had been born in 1902.

Before his departure, Liddell was hailed through the streets



Liddell: inspired man

of Edinburgh in a gaily decorated carriage by students and for a special in Waverley station said that their motto should be "Christ for the world, and the world for Christ." The students sang "Jesus shall reign" as the train left.

In China he worked with zeal and devotion. His running amazed the Chinese but he never depended seriously upon it, preferring to work with his teenage students. However, his running still proved useful. Once he got through lines of bandits disguised as a Chinese pedlar and then used his speed to make his escape.

He returned to Scotland briefly during the war but then, with typical courage, went back to China and once was preaching at a baptistal service when artillery bombed the church. Finally, the Japanese interned him but his fortitude remained a constant example for his colleagues until his death.

The trust, which has already raised £75,000, will contribute funds for sports facilities at local schools in China and next year it is establishing annual sports scholarships for three youngsters, one each from China, Hong Kong and Britain.

Wales honoured the unwritten agreement so faithfully in the match against Cornwall this week that they sacrificed much-needed points when declaring two runs behind.

Cricketer with the ball at his feet

By IVO TENNANT

AS THE last of the professional cricketers-footbalers, Phil Neale, who leads Worcestershire against Lancashire today, had to make a choice. It was whether to concentrate solely on one sport or the other in the hope of playing for England, or to persevere with both for fun. He chose the latter and is too pragmatic a man to regret having done so.

For Neale, the two sports complemented each other. Graham Taylor managed him when he played for Lincoln City and taught him how individuals should be handled. Neale's subsequent success in captaining a side which

includes Botham, Dille and Hick is self-evident.

Taylor's advice knew no bounds. "Be clever enough to act the peasant at times," he told the young left back who had just graduated from university to the fourth division with a degree in Russian. "The topics of conversation will be football, sex and television," Taylor said. "By all means adapt to that, but never lose what is going on in your mind." Neale did not, which, considering that five players in the Worcestershire side have degrees, is just as well.

For 11 years Neale attempted to combine cricket and football, which led to a certain amount of strife. Not with Worcestershire or his wife, with whom his honeymoon in 1976 consisted of one day's leave from training, but certain football directors and managers. One or two come in for harsh criticism in his autobiography, *A Double Life*, in which Taylor has written a foreword.

There is no such criticism of Worcestershire, nor of the majority of players Neale has led with conspicuous success since 1982. In addition to what he has gleaned from Taylor — "I try out to be too



Neale: living a double life

autocratic and to give players input in decision-making" — he learned much from Norman Gifford, his former captain. He had no qualms about taking Botham and Dille on board. He had shown himself capable of strong leadership in his second season as captain, dismissing Younis Ahmed, then a matchwinner, after he bet against his own side.

He is now the longest-serving captain in the country and has twice led Worcestershire to victory in the championship and the Sunday league. He is all too aware that only his county and Glamorgan have yet to win a final at Lord's. He was playing when Worcestershire were last in the Benson and Hedges Cup final.

It was 1976, his second season, and the occasion overwhelmed him. He made five and Kent won.

At the age of 36, he has given up hope of being selected for England as a batsman, even though his career average, which is in the mid-30s, is that of a good county player. As a captain, he uncharacteristically advanced his claims through the media to lead England in West Indies last winter. "I started to talk more openly because others had been doing so, although I thought I would have a better chance of taking the England A side to Zimbabwe," he said. "I did not realise until that tour started how disappointed I was not to be on it."

Neale has three years remaining of his contract and expects it will see him out. He will cope better than most in retirement, for he has his degree, capital from a benefit that brought him £153,000, experience of teaching at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, and of running Phil Neale Enterprises, a business which took spectators to Zimbabwe last winter. "That it was well organised," Mike Vockins, the Worcestershire secretary, said, "was typical of the man."

England ring changes

ENGLAND have made three changes from the party that won the inaugural European women's cup in Denmark last year, to defend the trophy this year.

They open against the Netherlands at Leicester on Wednesday and play Denmark and Ireland on the following two days.

ENGLAND PARTY: J Powell (Yorkshire, capt), K Smithies (East Midlands), J Aspinall (Yorkshire), C Barr (Sussex), J Howarth (East Midlands), C Goss (Yorkshire), D Jedges (Lancashire), D Langley.

DRAW: Cotton v Freuchy; Kinley v Warwickshire; later v Derbyshire; Trewin v Warwickshire; St Francis v Glamorgan; Road; Goss v Gloucestershire; Linton v Warwick; Parry; Hordson-on-the-bank; Langley.

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مكثامن الترحيل

Stewart
The
Little
England rises to
BOWLS
wins recovers to reach final with Spencer

The Times guide to the British Grand Prix on a fortieth anniversary in the motor racing calendar

Last milestone for Silverstone

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

CAN Alain Prost repeat his 1989 victory, this time at the wheel of a Ferrari rather than a McLaren-Honda? Or can Nigel Mansell once again bring the Silverstone crowd to its feet by scoring his first Ferrari victory of the season? Will Ayrton Senna make amends for his 1989 disappointment and repeat his McLaren-Honda win of 1988? Or will it be Gerhard Berger's turn to open the door of victory for the first time since joining McLaren?

On recent form, one of these drivers, the fastest four in Formula One, will be the first to see the chequered flag tomorrow. Yet it could be waved instead at Riccardo Patrese or Thierry Boutsen and their Williams-Renaults, or possibly at Nelson Piquet or Alessandro Nannini and their Benetton-Fords.

One thing is virtually certain: if the Foster's British Grand Prix is run on a dry track, it will be the fastest race of the world championship season, and will be run at an average speed which may never again be seen in Formula One in this country or perhaps the world.

The shrill exhaust notes of the latest breed of multi-cylinder engines will still be ringing in the ears of close to 100,000 spectators tomorrow night when the Silverstone management turns its attention to the task of re-modelling the track in time for next season's racing.

It will increase to 3.2 miles, it will provide about a dozen different corners presenting drivers with some interesting challenges and spectators with some exciting vantage points. In sheer speed it will be no match for Silverstone 1990-style, with its potential for a 145mph race average, a 15m lap record and the requirement of a lap speed close to 160mph for pole position.

The final hour of qualifying this afternoon, therefore, will make a milestone in the history of a race which first came to Silverstone exactly 40 years ago.

The inaugural event in 1950 was the first of the Grand Prix season, and the first to be run for the world championship. But these days the British Grand Prix marks the halfway point of the 16-race season, the time when teams tend to take stock. For those who are in need of championship points, tomorrow's race will occupy the most crucial two hours of the year, a nail-biting time, at the end of which they will know whether or not their points score since mid-season last year has been sufficient to free them from the spectre of Friday morning pre-qualifying for the remainder of the season.

In 1989, the Minardi team avoided this indignity (with which goes the loss of free travel to the far-flung races) by picking up three crucial points at Silverstone. This year, the pressure is on Ligier and Dallara to finish in the points,

Leyton House having escaped the net through their magnificent second place in France last weekend.

At the sharp end of the grid, of course, the pre-occupation is the championship. Forget all those clichés about not thinking about the title and "I take each race as it comes". For the 26 starters, the world championship is the ultimate goal and Senna, Berger, Prost and Mansell, in particular, know they can win it this year, given a reasonable run of reliability.

A victory tomorrow for one of this quartet will considerably enhance his championship chances, especially Senna or Prost, who are three points apart at the top of the table. Their score sheets include three victories and two blanks — but a driver counts only his 11 best results.

Although Ferrari and Prost have won the last two races, the McLarens will always be difficult to beat at Silverstone, which means that Senna's most serious challenger tomorrow may be his own team partner, Berger. Despite the lack of a win this year and having to squeeze his tall frame into a tight cockpit and endure considerable discomfort as a consequence, the Austrian has been showing scintillating speed in recent races, which Senna has not always been able to match.

In his first season with Ferrari, Prost, the world champion, may be leading Mansell by three wins to nil after seven races, but there has been precious little between them in terms of personal performance. Prost's victory in Mexico, from thirteenth on the grid, was a masterpiece of driving skill and tactical judgement, but equally meritorious in its way was Mansell's incredible overtaking manoeuvre when he went round the outside of Berger's McLaren to regain second place on the penultimate lap.

At Silverstone, there is the noise factor; the roar of the Mansell supporters, which he will hear above the high-pitched scream of his V12 engine, will be as good as giving him an extra ten brake horsepower.

The high point of the Canon Williams' team's season has been Patrese's victory in Imola, since when their results have slipped, but their Silverstone form over the past decade has been second only to McLaren's and this year their second-generation Renault engine should enable them to follow closely in the tracks of the McLarens and Ferraris and perhaps get in among them.

Over the past few weeks, the Benetton chassis has proved to be one of the most competitive on the circuits, as responsive to changes in settings as last year's car was not. Piquet and Nannini have been doing well on medium-speed circuits, and their impact on the faster tracks should be enhanced by the latest Series 4 of the Ford V8 engine developed by Cosworth Engineering.

The good top-end power of the Lamborghini V12 engine was demonstrated by Eric Bernard during recent tyre tests at Silverstone when his Larrousse Lola was among the front-runners, so the hopes of Derek Warwick and Martin Donnelly of putting the similarly powered cars of the Camel Lotus team among the points tomorrow could be clarified, if they can find a better chassis balance than in France.

It is a magical experience to be out there waving the flag for your country. Fortunately, I have had some success to celebrate with the supporters in Britain. I have had three wins and two second places in my last five races on British soil, which I think is not bad.

Just about my most emotional race was at Silverstone in 1987 when I beat Nelson Piquet. The crowd played its part that day, lifting me and carrying me when I had to make up so much ground on Nelson. That experience will live with me forever.

The British supporters are not only supportive but also knowledgeable. They understand and appreciate good motor racing. Any driver will tell you that. I hope to give them something to appreciate and cheer this time. It would be especially satisfying to win

pulling seventh as you do so, then just coming off the power and down to sixth again for Club. Again, also, 180mph or more exiting. Going through those two right-handers now you are heading for a big one.

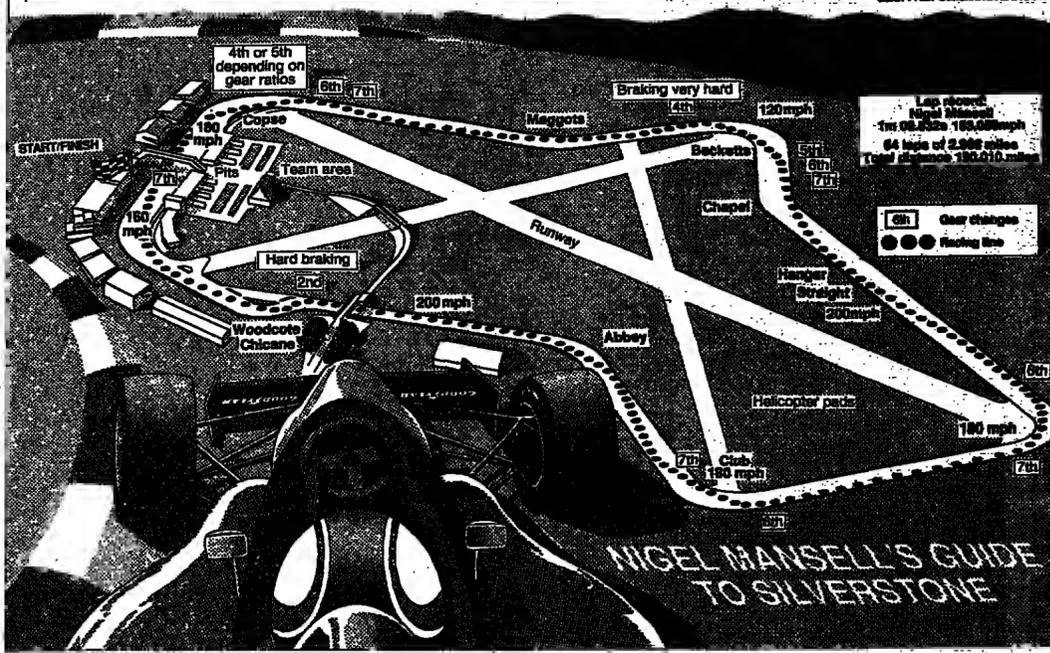
Out of Club, seventh, and flat round Abbey Curve towards the Bridge, reaching about 200mph again, in fact, depending on the direction of the wind, this part can be even faster than Hanger Straight. Silverstone, remember, is an old aerodrome, basically flat

and open, so the wind is a significant factor.

Now breaking very hard for the left-right Woodcocks Chicane for the steepest section of the circuit, about 80mph. Down to second gear, into and through the chicane and up through the gears again, sweeping right toward the finish line.

If it is a good lap it should be close to an average speed of 160mph. Given the right conditions, with no wind, a record qualifying lap of 161mph — or 1min 6.4sec — could be possible.

THIS is how I will be driving my seven-speed Ferrari around the old, 2.97-mile Silverstone circuit for the last time.



right-hander at about 120mph. It is an important corner because you have Chapel Curve and Hanger Straight coming up, and you need the car and your position to be just right.

Up through the gears again — fifth, sixth, seventh; fast and hard as you can down Hanger Straight, usually the fastest part of the circuit, at 200mph. It is a critical part of the circuit, too. Positioning on the left, not losing focus of Stowe Corner, because that is now taken at 180mph. Flash down to sixth, then flat out through Stowe, exiting and

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Crossing the start/finish line in seventh gear close on 160mph and entering Copse Corner, a right-hander at upwards of 180mph. Changes down to fourth or fifth, depending on gear ratios. You can afford to ride up the kerb if it is dry, but if it is wet — don't!

Out of Copse and quickly up to sixth and seventh, sweep left through Maggots before breaking very hard for Becketts. Into fourth, flicking round the

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Crossing the start/finish line in seventh gear close on 160mph and entering Copse Corner, a right-hander at upwards of 180mph. Changes down to fourth or fifth, depending on gear ratios. You can afford to ride up the kerb if it is dry, but if it is wet — don't!

Out of Copse and quickly up to sixth and seventh, sweep left through Maggots before breaking very hard for Becketts. Into fourth, flicking round the

right-hander at about 120mph. It is an important corner because you have Chapel Curve and Hanger Straight coming up, and you need the car and your position to be just right.

Up through the gears again — fifth, sixth, seventh; fast and hard as you can down Hanger Straight, usually the fastest part of the circuit, at 200mph. It is a critical part of the circuit, too. Positioning on the left, not losing focus of Stowe Corner, because that is now taken at 180mph. Flash down to sixth, then flat out through Stowe, exiting and

pulling seventh as you do so, then just coming off the power and down to sixth again for Club. Again, also, 180mph or more exiting. Going through those two right-handers now you are heading for a big one.

Out of Club, seventh, and flat round Abbey Curve towards the Bridge, reaching about 200mph again, in fact, depending on the direction of the wind, this part can be even faster than Hanger Straight. Silverstone, remember, is an old aerodrome, basically flat

and open, so the wind is a significant factor.

Now breaking very hard for the left-right Woodcocks Chicane for the steepest section of the circuit, about 80mph. Down to second gear, into and through the chicane and up through the gears again, sweeping right toward the finish line.

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Time for 'go' to mean green

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

DURING final qualifying for the Foster's British Grand Prix this afternoon cars with engines producing well under 700 horsepower will be lapping the circuit at speeds equal or close to those of the 1,100-plus horsepower turbo-charged cars of three seasons ago. This demonstrates the pace of advance in aerodynamic, tyre technology, engine management systems and performance fuels, and the achievements of chassis and engine designers to extract the very best from the technology to higher performance allowed in the ride book.

One of these has been the freedom to use performance-enhancing additives in the fuel mixture, and the pungent aromas emanating from some of the fuel containers in the pit and paddock areas, but it is their presence, recently, perhaps because high temperatures have tended to increase the irritation factor, these exotic brews have become a sensitive issue, leading to suggestions that they may well be harmful to those who come into contact with them.

Yesterday, in an effort to quell the smears, Shell, who supply Honda Marlboro McLaren, issued a statement to explain the choice of fuel and lubricants required: no additional precautions to those recommended for the handling and use of normal consumer fuels, and that their constituents were so be found in products used day-to-day working.

The fact that the subject should be raised at all is an indication of an increasing uneasiness about the posture of Formula One, with the pursuit of performance regardless of cost at a time when major preoccupations in the world's motor industry is the development of ever 'greener' and more environmentally friendly cars.

There is a greater motor industry involvement in Formula One today than ever before and it is by no means all for publicity. A major benefit, a cost-cutting exercise, is the opportunity to engage its engineers in advanced technology projects at a pace which can never be found outside motor racing, where technological advances and solutions to problems have to be developed in days rather than months or years.

In this respect Formula One has been a great laboratory for us and our customers, both in terms of product development and in the development of equipment, some of which is already being made available to our dealers, for monitoring performance accurately. Says Michael Krumpholtz, Ford's director of motor sports operations worldwide:

"But times change, and with much of the world so deeply concerned with environmental issues, and with the motor industry so heavily committed to this cause, I believe that FISA, as the controlling body of motor sport, has a magnificent opportunity to point us all in a new direction, one which is more compatible with the demands of an environmentally conscious society."

Krumpholtz said that under the leadership of Jean-Marie Balestre and Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One has made considerable advances in recent years and has consistently demonstrated its ability to respond with remarkable speed to new challenges. "Look at the huge strides in safety, for example. Now there should be a new challenge — to develop cars of outstanding efficiency judged not just by its engine, but by its chassis, but as an overall package. Smaller cars, lighter cars, cars which are just as quick but consume less fuel."

Yesterday, a spokesman for McLaren confirmed that the team's main concern was evergreen, and that they were prepared to that end, after the consultation with everyone concerned, should be encouraged. Surely the time has come to sit around the table.

A track stamped on my mind for ever

EVEN after all these years, the British Grand Prix fills me with a marvellous feeling I get from no other race. You have to be pretty hard-nosed in this business but if you are not stirred by your home race there is something wrong with you.

It is a magical experience to be out there waving the flag for your country. Fortunately, I have had some success to celebrate with the supporters in Britain. I have had three wins and two second places in my last five races on British soil, which I think is not bad.

Just about my most emotional race was at Silverstone in 1987 when I beat Nelson Piquet. The crowd played its part that day, lifting me and carrying me when I had to make up so much ground on Nelson. That experience will live with me forever.

The British supporters are not only supportive but also knowledgeable. They understand and appreciate good motor racing. Any driver will tell you that. I hope to give them something to appreciate and cheer this time. It would be especially satisfying to win

pulling seventh as you do so, then just coming off the power and down to sixth again for Club. Again, also, 180mph or more exiting. Going through those two right-handers now you are heading for a big one.

Out of Club, seventh, and flat round Abbey Curve towards the Bridge, reaching about 200mph again, in fact, depending on the direction of the wind, this part can be even faster than Hanger Straight. Silverstone, remember, is an old aerodrome, basically flat

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GRAND PRIX TEAMS

- FERRARI**
Drivers: Car 1, Alain Prost (Fr); car 2, Nigel Mansell (GB).
Chassis: Ferrari 041. Engine: Ferrari V12. Tyres: Goodyear.
- TYRRELL RACING ORGANISATION**
Drivers: Car 3, Satoru Nakajima (Japan); car 4, Jean Alesi (Fr).
Chassis: Tyrrell 016. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Pirelli.
- WILLIAMS GRAND PRIX ENGINEERING**
Drivers: Car 5, Thierry Boutsen (Bel); car 6, Riccardo Patrese (It).
Chassis: Williams FW18B. Engine: Renault V10. Tyres: Goodyear.
- MOTOR RACING DEVELOPMENTS**
Drivers: Car 7, David Brabham (Aus); car 8, Stefano Modena (It).
Chassis: Brabham BT59. Engine: Ford V8. Tyres: Pirelli.
- FOOTWORK ARROWS**
Drivers: Car 9, Michele Alboreto (It); car 10, Alex Caffi (It).
Chassis: Arrows A11B. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- CAMEL TEAM LOTUS**
Drivers: Car 11, Derek Warwick (GB); car 12, Martin Donnelly (GB).
Chassis: Lotus 102. Engine: Lamborghini V12. Tyres: Goodyear.

- OSELLA F1**
Driver: Car 14, Olivier Grouillard (Fr).
Chassis: Osella FA1-ME. Engine: Lamborghini V12. Tyres: Goodyear.
- LEYTON HOUSE RACING**
Drivers: Car 15, Mauricio Gugelmin (Br); car 16, Ivan Capelli (It).
Chassis: Leyton House CG901. Engine: Judd V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- EQUIPE AGS**
Drivers: Car 17, Gabriele Tarquini (It); car 18, Yannick Dalmas (Fr).
Chassis: AGS JH25. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- BENETTON FORMULA**
Drivers: Car 19, Alessandro Nannini (It); car 20, Nelson Piquet (Br).
Chassis: Benetton B190. Engine: Ford V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- SCUDERIA ITALIA**
Drivers: Car 21, Emanuele Pirro (It); car 22, Andrea de Cesaris (It).
Chassis: BMS Dallara V8. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Pirelli.
- SCM MINARDI**
Drivers: Car 23, Pierluigi Martini (It); car 24, Paolo Barilla (It).
Chassis: Minardi M190. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Pirelli.
- LIGIER GITANES**
Drivers: Car 25, Nicola Larini (It); car 26, Philippe Alliot (Fr).
Chassis: Ligier JS33B. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- HONDA MARLBORO**
Drivers: Car 27, Ayrton Senna (Br); car 28, Gerhard Berger (Austria).
Chassis: McLaren MP4/5B. Engine: Honda V10. Tyres: Goodyear.
- ESPO LAROUSSE**
Drivers: Car 29, Eric Bernard (Fr); car 30, Aguri Suzuki (Japan).
Chassis: Lola 90. Engine: Lamborghini V12. Tyres: Goodyear.
- SUBARU COLONI RACING**
Driver: Car 31, Bertrand Gachot (Bel).
Chassis: Coloni C83. Engine: Subaru flat-12. Tyres: Goodyear.
- EUROBRUN RACING**
Drivers: Car 33, Roberto Moreno (Br); car 34, Claudio Langes (It).
Chassis: EuroBrun ER189. Engine: Judd V8. Tyres: Pirelli.
- MONETRON ONYX**
Drivers: Car 35, Gregor Folkert (Switz); car 36, J J Lehto (Fin).
Chassis: Onyx OR-1B. Engine: Ford Cosworth DFV V8. Tyres: Goodyear.
- LIFE RACING ENGINES**
Driver: Car 38, Bruno Giacomelli (It).
Chassis: Life L150. Engine: Life V12. Tyres: Goodyear.

PROGRAMME

- TODAY**
8.0: Gates open
9.0: Circuit inspection lap
10.0-11.30: Unlimited practice for Formula One
11.40-12.55: Track demonstrations and air displays
12.30: Circuit inspection lap
1.0-2.0: Second qualifying for Formula One
2.20: British Formula Three championship race
3.25: Metro Challenge race
4.10-4.40: Second qualifying for GM Lotus cars
4.55-5.25: Second qualifying for Peugeot cars
- TOMORROW**
5.0: Gates open
5.0: Circuit inspection lap
5.30-10.0: Unlimited warm-up for Formula One
10.20: GM Lotus Euroseries race
11.25: Coupe de France 300 Peugeot ES60 race
1.0: Circuit inspection lap
1.30: Warm-up lap for Formula One
2.0: Foster's British Grand Prix
4.0: ESSO British Touring car championship race

POSITIONS

- Remaining races**
July 28: German GP (Hockenheim); Aug 12: Hungarian GP (Budapest); Aug 26: Belgian GP (Spa-Francorchamps); Sept 9: Italian GP (Monza); Sept 23: Portuguese GP (Estoril); Sept 30: Spanish GP (Jerez); Oct 21: Japanese GP (Suzuka); Nov 4: Australian GP (Adelaide).
- Points awarded to both drivers and constructors for finishing a grand prix in one of the top six positions:** 1st: 10pts; 2nd: 6pts; 3rd: 4pts; 4th: 3pts; 5th: 2pts; 6th: 1pt. Drivers are allowed to count only their 11 best results from the 18 races in deciding the world championship. Constructors are allowed to count all points awarded to a maximum of two cars per race.

FISHING

Big salmon lives to fight another day

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

THE largest salmon caught by an angler in North America, weighing approximately 72lb, was returned alive to the water of a Canadian river last month because of strict rules of catch and release.

The story is told by Nelson Bryant, in *The New York Times*, of how Ken Jamieson, a fly fisherman of Houston, Texas, hooked the fish in a pool of the Restigouche River in New Brunswick, Canada.

It took 1 hour 15 minutes to land, but shortly after sunset. The fish was beached rather than netted. Jamieson and his guide, Charlie Adams, and two canoeists who were coming down the river, joined forces to measure the fish quickly so it could be returned to the water alive.

Because Jamieson's fish could not be weighed, Bryant says, a formula for computing its weight was used. The length multiplied by the square of the girth divided by 800. The fish was 68½ inches long and its girth was 29in.

Bryant says that the largest Atlantic salmon taken by a fly fisherman weighed slightly more than 74lb and was caught on the Aaroy river in Norway. He adds: "In all the Atlantic salmon rivers of Canada, a quarter of a century goes by before a fish of 50lb or more is caught."

The conservation rules of the Restigouche say that only small salmon, the grise, that return to their rivers to spawn after a year at sea, may be killed, and big salmon must be released. British fishermen, uninitiated in the reason for the rules of the Restigouche, may wonder whether it might not be best to have it the other way around.

POWERBOATING

Conditions are made for Clarke

By BRYAN STILES

CATAMARANS should hold the key in the London Docklands race tomorrow and that will give John Clarke, in his 39ft Cougar, the edge. He drives the biggest catamaran in the British offshore fleet and the flat-calm conditions predicted for the race should be ideal for his craft.

Competitors will make a 161-mile round trip down the Thames from Tower Bridge to Margate and back to London Docks. The catamarans will have an advantage over the heavier monohulls in the placid waters of the Thames, which account for 62 miles, and on the run along the south coast, which will be to sheltered seas.

Clarke, from Waltham Cross, will be seeking his first points of the season in the race, which forms part of the national championships and the Global Group grand prix series for the Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust.

British drivers will be competing this week in the world grand prix inland circuit series in Leningrad. Their biggest problem is transporting the two-litre boats and equipment such a distance. Steve Kerton, the Briton who lies fourth in the championship table, set off by road last Friday. After tomorrow's race he will then drive to Lignano, Italy, in time for the next round on July 29.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

- Today**
CRICKET
Benson and Hedges Cup final 11.0: Lancashire v Worcestershire
- LORD'S:** Lancashire v Worcestershire
- Tour match**
GLASGOW (T1400): Scotland v Indians (10.45)
- SCHOOL'S CHAMPIONSHIP:** Oxford MCC Festival
- BOWLS**
EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Bedfordshire v Northants (Linslade); Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire (March); Cambridgeshire v Essex v Suffolk (Alderbury); SURREY HOME COUNTIES LEAGUE: Buckinghamshire v Sussex (Burghash); Kent v Middlesex (Sandwich); Surrey v Oxfordshire (Guildford)
- Today**
ATHLETICS: 8.00-10.40pm: Highlights of the World Championships from Oslo; 9.30-10.30pm: Highlights of the World Championships from Atlanta, Georgia; 10.00-11.00pm: Highlights of the World Cup of Athletics from London; 11.00-11.30pm: Highlights of the World Cup of Athletics from London; 11.30-12.00am: Highlights of the World Cup of Athletics from London
- BASEBALL:** 8.00-10.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 10.30-11.00pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.00-11.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.30-12.00am: Highlights of the World Series from New York
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SPORT ON TV

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- Baseball:** 8.00-10.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 10.30-11.00pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.00-11.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.30-12.00am: Highlights of the World Series from New York
- Baseball:** 8.00-10.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 10.30-11.00pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.00-11.30pm: Highlights of the World Series from New York; 11.30-12.00am: Highlights of the World Series from New York
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Spectators could be in for a rude awakening in the Dream Mile at the Bislett Games

Elliott could be just short of shape to break world record

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, OSLO

TONIGHT'S Dream Mile, which has been promoted here as a world record attempt, had a rude awakening yesterday when Peter Elliott said that the record was not in his plans. With no one else in the field capable of beating Steve Cram's five-year-old mark, the race, always the focal point of the Bislett Games, may prove an anti-climax.

The race is Elliott's third after a calf injury and, as his coach, Kim McDonald, said, the interruption to his training has probably left him just short of world record shape. Not that he completely dismissed the possibility. "But I would not be shocked if he did it," McDonald said.

Elliott might, though. He was asked if he would be prepared to take the pace if it was inadequate for the record, which stands at 3min 46.32sec. "There is no way I'm going to run the Dream Mile from the front," he said. "Anyone who is a miler wants to win the Dream Mile, so the most important thing is to win."

Ray Brown, of the United States, a 1min 45sec 800 metres runner, is the pacemaker, but the question was

directed at Elliott in the event of Brown failing to pitch his run at world record schedule. "We will probably ask for 1,200 metres to be in 2:50 to 2:52." Which means a mile barely under 3:50.

"I want to come out of this race with a personal best," was the one concession to clock watching that Elliott made. But that stands at 3:49.20 seconds, set in 1988 when he finished second here to Cram.

Even that would probably be sufficient to win. Although the field includes Abdi Bile, of Somalia, the world's fastest miler last year, and Wilfred Kirochi, the Kenyan who was second to Elliott in the Commonwealth Games 1,500 metres, neither has shown significant form this summer.

Unless the Italian, Salvatore Antibo, succeeds in his 10,000 metres world record attempt here, the first Dream race of the season will be in Barcelona on Monday: Leroy Burrell versus Michael Johnson at 200 metres. Johnson, unheard of internationally until this year, has not taken long to discover what promoters' dreams are made of. Money.

He has been lured away from the 400 metres here and

a 300 metres at the Pearl Assurance games in Belfast on Monday, highlighting the anachronism of athletes not having to sign binding contracts, which would conflict with the so-called amateur status of the sport, while they break agreements to take up better offers.

When Johnson agreed to appear here and in Belfast, he was not the drawing card he is now. He is the world's fastest 200 metres runner and third at 400 metres. Burrell has beaten Linford Christie in three successive races and is saving his showdown with Carl Lewis until the Goodwill Games in a fortnight's time.

But that may not be as good as Monday's 200 metres. As Burrell said on Tuesday: "At our college meet in Texas in May he ran 19.91 seconds and I ran a windy [wind assisted] 19.61 seconds. When we are able to mix it up, something spectacular will happen."

Steve Backley, the javelin world record-holder, has his most thorough examination of the season when he faces Jan Zelezny here. Zelezny threw 86m in Nice on Tuesday, only three metres short of Backley's 89.58m world record.

Great days ahead for the Irish

By DAVID POWELL

AN IRISH national record for the 10,000 metres is the least that John Doherty expects of himself in the Bislett Games here tonight. "If I can keep upright, I should get it," he says. If he keeps upright, Britain's athletics bosses may feel like the man at Manchester United who said that David Platt would never make a footballer.

In 1984, Doherty, then of Britain, was a useful 5,000 metres athlete to have around, but not useful enough alongside Eamonn Martin, Tim Hutchings and David Moorcroft. Consequently, he was overlooked for the Los Angeles Olympics that year, after finishing third in the trial. "The selectors didn't even notice me, so that got me thinking about running for Ireland," Doherty said, with a thick Yorkshire accent.

This evening the man from Leeds, who has run for England and Northern Ireland, but is now in his third country, comes to the 10,000 metres as a comparative novice. No less a figure than David Bedford, the last Briton to hold the world record, believes he will make a spectacular impression.

"He can do for Irish 10,000 metres running what the World Cup did for Irish football," Bedford said. "He has the potential to be an Olympic medalist."

Tonight there will be a world record attempt by the Italian, Salvatore Antibo. But Doherty said: "I am going to go with the rabbit and do what Antibo does." After his 13min 14.17sec 5,000 metres in Stockholm 12 days ago, he has to be taken seriously.



Doherty: potential to be an Olympic medal winner

Five days earlier, he had run 13min 15.28sec to win the Helsinki Grand Prix. On Monday, he sharpened up with a 3,000 metres win in 7min 49.64sec in Lappeenranta, Finland. He agrees with Bedford. "I think the 10,000 metres will be my better event. I have been trying to hold everything back for the European Championships, but it seems to be flowing out of me."

It will be like home from adopted home for Doherty on the track. The "rabbit" or pacemaker, is Gerry O'Reilly, from the land where most O'Reillys come from. He has instructions to reach 4,000 metres at 13min 13.30sec 5,000 metres pace. The world record, belonging to Arturo Barrios, of Mexico, is 27min 08.23sec. "I will be under 27min 30sec," Doherty said. Had Doherty remained British, Martin's national record of 27min 23.06sec, set at the same meeting two years ago, would have been a good target. But Doherty is not thinking of

that. "I'm Irish now and I would like to think I could bring a bit of pride to Ireland," he said. "If I am making a serious attempt at 10,000 metres I have got to be thinking of close to 27min eventually."

Doherty's first steps as a runner were taken in 1976. That was the year he found Brendan Foster's performance in the Montreal Olympics more inspirational than a trial with Leeds United youth team. His early experiences might have put him off: in the 1978 English Schools, Steve Cram won the mile and Doherty was last in his heat. But progress was quick: in 1980 he achieved his first international victory, beating Antibo, and in 1981 won the English Junior cross-country title.

"Then I had a couple of lean years because of stress fractures," Doherty said. He returned to the frame in 1984, but British officials did not like his picture. "I was living in the States and I didn't think the

selectors looked favourably, or still do, upon people out of their country trying to make their teams. All my family, except my older brother, were born and lived in Ireland, so it was a natural progression."

He fell into the company of John Treacey and, gradually, out of the reach of the British. "I was training with John and it took him three years to convince me I should run for Ireland." But convince him he did, and Treacey has now probably talked himself out of the Irish 10,000 metres record of 27min 48.7sec, which he has held since 1980.

The reason Doherty, aged 28, has not scaled such heights before is that he devoted himself to the lucrative United States road-racing circuit. "From the purist's point of view, the track is the better measure of a runner," he says now. "I have always been a track runner at heart and my priority is to get medals at every championship I run."

Bold Mackay sets the pace

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

FEARLESS front-running has always wooed the hearts of British track enthusiasts, and with a superlative demonstration of the art there was no more popular figure at the sixtieth English schools' championship at Moorways stadium, Derby, yesterday, than Kerry Mackay.

Sporting the eye-catching tangerine of Hertfordshire, Mackay left nobody in doubt of her intentions in the senior 3,000 metres. From a five-metre lead after one lap, she powered relentlessly to win by the length of the home straight in 9min 36.7sec. The record books will show the time as the championship best. What they will omit is the bravery of the performance, achieved in the middle of the day with temperatures in the high seventies—no time for seven-and-a-half laps of self-imposed torture.

Winner of the national under-20 title a fortnight ago, Mackay, aged 17, is obviously good, though not good enough, so those that matter think, to warrant selection for the world junior championships in Bulgaria next month. Mackay was refreshingly realistic in her disappointment at failing to achieve the 9min 20sec required by the British board, to be considered for Plovdiv, noting that she has two more seasons as an international junior.

Several athletes who have been selected for Bulgaria were on show yesterday, mostly in heats, but Emma Merry, representing the Midlands this weekend, took the opportunity to sharpen her discus-throwing skill. In a straight final in the intermediate event Merry set a championship best of 48.80m in the fourth round, which she

consolidated with 48.22m in the next.

RESULTS: Senior boys: Long jump: 1, S Philips (Warwick), 7.24m; 2, J Lee (Middlesex), 7.21m; 3, E Chukwura (Sussex), 7.19m. High jump: 1, M Smith (Avon), 62.06. Intermediate boys: High jump: 1, S Claude (London), 1.68; 2, M Smith (Herts), and S McLean (London), 1.59. Triple jump: 1, U Omyalewa (Shropshire), 15.04 (wind assisted). Championship best performance: 2, C Howard (Oxon), 14.88 (WVA); 3, O Ficketts (West Midlands), 14.76. Shot: 1, A Kelly (Manchester), 18.22. Junior boys: Pole vault: 1, C Ayre (Northumbria), 3.30. Long jump: 1, K Walsh (Bristol), 6.44 (WVA). Shot: 1, C Rex (Essex), 14.50. Discus: 1, J Kindon (Somerset), 39.94. Hammer: M Rowland (Westmoreland), 57.58. Javelin: T Ebdon (Essex), 59.34. Senior girls: 3,000m: 1, K Mackay (Herts), 9min 36.7sec (CBP). High jump: 1, E Smith (Greater Manchester), 1.74; 2, C Pyburn (West Midlands), 1.74. Discus: 1, N Hart (Essex), 44.74; 2, A Everson (Warwick), 43.70; 3, E Beale (Bucks), 43.62. Intermediate girls: 3,000m: 1, N Gray (North), 9min 57.2sec. Discus: 1, E Berry (West Midlands), 48.80 (CBP). Javelin: E Sasse (Shropshire), 41.32. Junior girls: High jump: 1, A May (Hants), 1.62.

CYCLING

Pensec planning to recapture lead in Pyrenees

From JOHN WILCOCKSON IN VILLARD-DE-LANS

Overall placings

WITH nine stages and 933 miles remaining in the 77th Tour de France, the race is wide open with at least seven riders in contention for overall victory. Yesterday, a rest day, each of the candidates spent as much time discussing his strategy as riding his bike or resting.

The first two men on overall classification after 12 days, Claudio Chiappucci, of Italy, and Roman Pensec, of France, gave press conferences at their hotel on the verdant plateau of the Vercors.

Chiappucci said: "I find it hard to believe that I'm leading the Tour de France, ahead of the best riders in the world." Until last August, Chiappucci had not won a race in four years as a professional. But this modest man, aged 27, from Varese, raised his sights after finishing his first Tour de France in 81st place last year.

He won two Italian one-day classics at the end of the season, and this year has won two lesser races. But the rider who is called "chiappucino" by his followers does not expect to be around when this Tour reaches its showdown.

Like Chiappucci, Pensec is usually a team support rider. In Pensec's case, his team leader is Greg LeMond, the winner last year and the reigning world champion.

Yesterday, LeMond was pleased to escape the limelight to spend a day with his wife and three children in Grenoble, leaving Pensec to face the press.

Sitting in the back garden of the rustic Hotel de la Poste at Autrans, Pensec seemed to have overcome the extreme disillusion he'd felt the first day, when he lost the yellow jersey.

Asked about his tactics, Pensec said: "There's only Chiappucci to watch. It may be a good thing that I lost the jersey to him, as the pressure is now on the Italian. I can wait until the Pyrenees to get back the lead."

Others have similar ideas, including the 1988 winner, Pedro Delgado, who was the only other contender to hold a press conference yesterday. He said: "It's frustrating for me to be so far behind the leaders [nine minutes], but Chiappucci is not a problem. He will have a bad day. As for Pensec, by losing the time-trial by so much yesterday, he conceded time, and gave up his psychological advantage."

Asked where he planned to make up time on his rivals, Delgado said: "The stage in the Pyrenees to Luz Ardou (on Tuesday) will be decisive—not just the climb to the finish, the whole stage."

Delgado felt that LeMond would be a bigger danger to his chances than Erik Breukink, who lies third, 38sec behind Pensec. Delgado said: "Breukink is scared of racing downhill, that's his weakest point. And in the past he has given up at least one bad day in the Tour."

Two riders who on outside chance of winning are the Mexican, Raúl Alcalá, the co-leader with Breukink of the Dutch team, PDM, and the Tour of Italy winner, Gianni Bugno.

The riders leave here today for the Bastille Day 149km 13th stage to St Etienne.

RIFLE SHOOTING

Something to celebrate

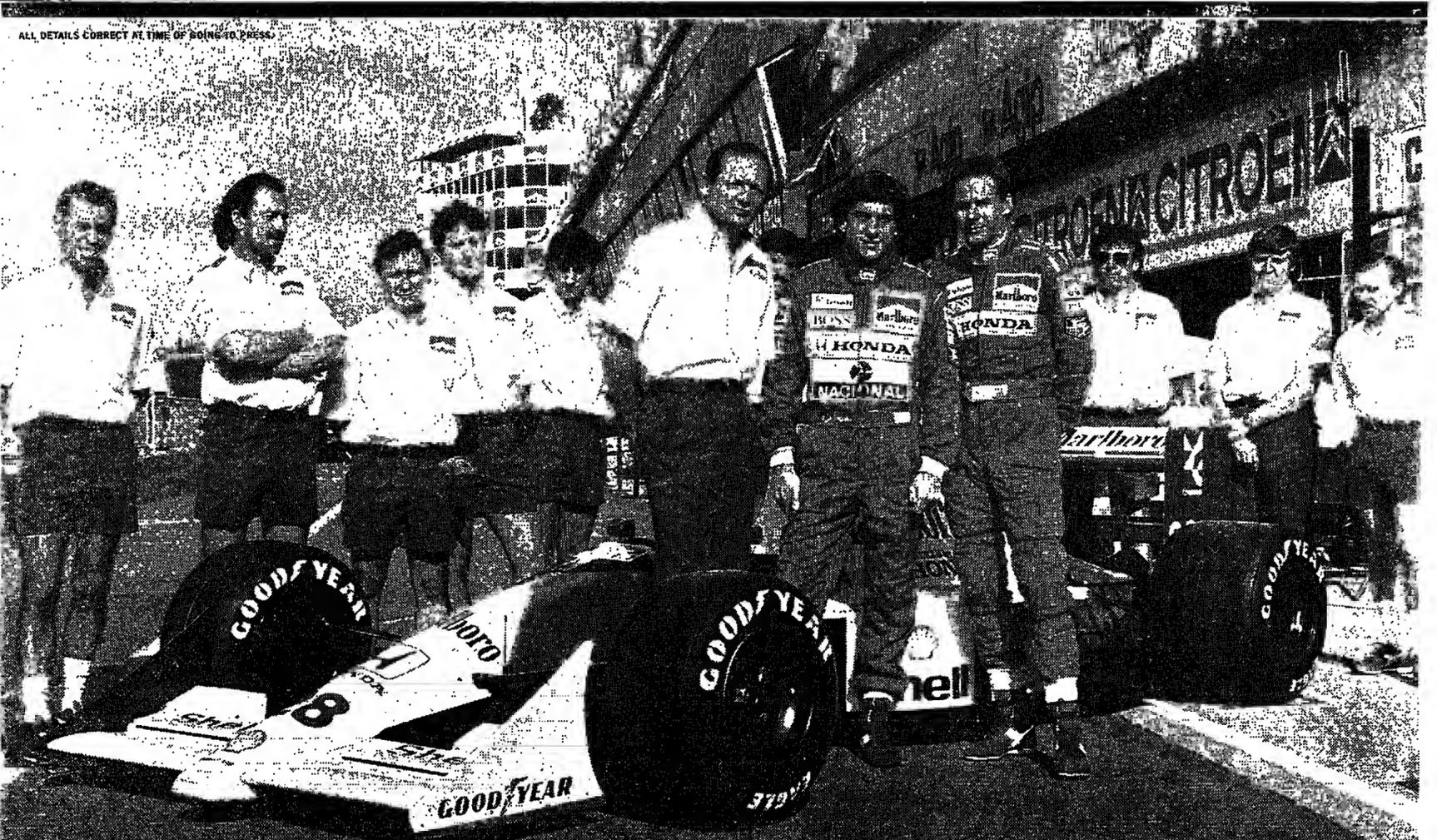
ONE hundred years ago this weekend, the marksmen of Queen Victoria's Volunteer Forces rode into the newly built railway station at Bisley Camp, Surrey, to shoot in the National Rifle Association meeting (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes). For the previous 30 years it had been held at Wimbledon.

The station has long gone, although its building remains as a clubhouse. The Volunteers are now the Territorial Army and the rifles have become high-tech, but their competitions still take up most of the first few days of the annual meeting.

At the same time, the long-range match-rifle shots, compete in the competitions leading up to the aggregate for the Hopton Challenge Cup, first presented in 1900. On Thursday, the schools take over with nearly 800 boys and girls.

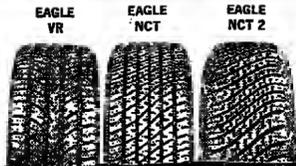
The Queen's Medal for the champion shot of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines of Bisley went to its first tie-break yesterday. Marine Roy Osborne beat Corporal David O'Connor on the last shot.

Results, page 37



ONE MEMBER OF THE HONDA MARLBORO McLAREN TEAM HAS WON EVERY GRAND PRIX FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS.

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Star of India plummets to English earth

Late in 1907, Ranji — or His Highness the Jam Sahib of Nawanganar as he was now known — returned to England for the first time in over three years and for the first time since becoming ruler of the state. His arrival was keenly awaited by the British public, whose hearts he had won forever with his captivating and extraordinarily successful methods at the batting crease for Sussex and England. Ranji, now that he had achieved his ultimate ambition, was equally anxious to renew the acquaintance.

The authorized biography of Ranji said of this visit: "He was now paramount in his own land, and he wished to repay all the hospitality he had received in England. His chance had come to show gratitude, and he did so right royally... He determined to resume his old life on a new level of lavish hospitality. He contemplated with delight the parties he would give, the friends who would stay with him for a whole season's cricket."

Shortly after he arrived, he gave a reunion dinner in London for many of his old friends, and once he had settled in to the beautiful country residence he was renting at Shillingtree Park, between the Sussex Downs and the Surrey hills, the magnificent house parties began. Despite an announcement he had made in *The Times*, abandoning plans for a large celebration, it had been reported in England that his installation the previous March was an event on the grandest scale and so expectations of splendour must have been high. In such matters, Ranji had never been one to disappoint: with a large staff of servants, hospitality was lavished on a host of the aristocracy and leading cricketers.

Yet the impression of benevolence was not quite what it seemed. During the first nine months of his stay in England, it is not certain that Ranji paid any of his bills satisfactorily. He ran up sizeable accounts with a number of tradesmen, including a supplier of large quantities of pheasant, a Birmingham wine merchant (from whom he also got supplies of port shipped back to Jamnagar, his capital); a York bookseller and stationer; a laundry firm; and a firm of millers.

Having had for years a natural desire for extravagance curbed by regular reminders that his resources were sadly limited, Ranji apparently interpreted his newfound wealth as a signal to feed that extravagance to excess, and all other thoughts of money went from his mind. It never seemed to occur to him that his failure to pay might stick to the minds of others. As far as he was concerned, the acts of extravagance were what atoned for all the generous hospitality he had received in the past; actually paying for them had no significance whatsoever.

Nor were his English creditors aloof. Mansur Khachar, a prince of Jasdani, a small state in Western India, and an old schoolfriend of Ranji's, was anxious to recover £10,000 — well over £350,000 at modern prices — which Ranjitsinhji had borrowed from him in April 1904.

The public in England was anxious to know if its idol was going to make a return to the first-class cricket field during the summer of 1908; whether indeed he was capable of making a return. Ranji's thoughts had been working along the same lines and, with the assistance of the professional bowlers among his guests at Shillingtree Park, he practised hard during May. Towards the end of the month he made his reappearance in The Parks at Oxford for the Gentlemen of England against the University. It was, curiously, his first match on the ground and he scored nine and 31.

The change in him was immediately noticeable, despite recent illness, he was so noticeably much stouter than in 1904, and

Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji — or Ranji, as he was known — was the most gifted cricketer of the game's Golden Age. He was the first batsman to challenge W. G. Grace's many records, but as Simon Wilde reveals, off the field his activities were less public and less attractive



Indian cobra uncoiled: Ranjitsinhji, king of the crease, rears venomously before making his strike

picture was to be exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1909) and various other house guests. Then, for two hours, she and Take worked while Ranji sat, probably observed for at least part of the time by some of his friends. His jewels and decorations were produced for her to sketch and she remembered the day as a very pleasant experience.

Afterwards, according to Mrs Taylor, she and MacLaren discussed a price and agreed on 100 guineas for one ivory miniature, or 180 for a pair. When she asked for half the amount by cheque in advance, MacLaren went into another room, where Ranji was discussing building designs for his palace, and returned to say His Highness was not in a position to approve the advance but promised to send her the money by cheque by that evening's post. Before she left she did in fact see Ranji again but all he did was help her pack up, hand her a wrapped turban in cloth of gold to work from, and promise to send to her London studio later that day the robes she was to represent him as also wearing.

More than once during the days that followed, Mrs Taylor had a

model come to her studio, but the robes failed to arrive, as did the cheque. She began to write repeated enquiries as to why these promises had been broken, but received only a series of unsatisfactory replies from MacLaren. Nevertheless, she spent 15 days finishing and perfecting two miniatures and in June sent them to Ranji. After two weeks MacLaren returned them, saying that in Ranji's opinion they were not at all like him and that she had been told from the start not to expect payment until His Highness had seen and approved her work.

On hearing this, Mrs Taylor issued a writ for 180 guineas against the Jam Sahib in the High Court. An anxiety to recover her fee was not the only motive; her professional pride was hurt by the unfavourable opinion of the miniatures. Although able to take consolation in her generally flourishing reputation — she was even asked to paint another portrait of Ranji by a man delighted at the Jam Sahib's century against Middlesex at Lord's — she could not rid herself of the memory of this slight.

In September, Edward VII's wife, Queen Alexandra, before commissioning Mrs Taylor to paint her portrait, was shown some of her work, and on seeing one of the miniatures of Ranji had

commented that it "glorified his likeness". The artist later confided in a letter: "He is so marked by smallpox one would say this as the marks are not shown in my work."

It was so apparent, though, that Mrs Taylor was going to have to wait if she wanted her claim heard in the High Court, and her solicitor advised her to transfer it to a county court. This is what she did, though to do so it was necessary for her to reduce her claim to £100. The case was referred to Brighton and Edward Hunt, Ranjitsinhji's solicitor, later protested that the case had only been switched there to deliberately and unfairly arouse publicity. "A number of officials and clerks in two county courts in the districts in which my client resides and is constantly playing cricket, knew of it," he said.

Mrs Taylor's opinion, though, was that her summons had annoyed and astonished them all, particularly so as the Jam was already exceedingly well known in the Brighton county court; it was her belief that Ranjitsinhji's debts ran into thousands of pounds. It may have been the adverse publicity he was receiving in the courts that accounted for his sudden and unexpected appearance in the first-class cricket field after his double-century against Surrey late in July.

He was to spend the following four weeks at Gilling and Shillingtree Park, where he staged a three-day, 12-a-side match against a Cambridge team, scoring 103 not out at No. 11 in a total of 599, before going shooting in Scotland.

When Mrs Taylor's case came up for hearing, Hunt immediately entered a plea on behalf of his client that he was exempt from the jurisdiction of the courts of England because he was the ruling sovereign of an independent state. This was not the first time Hunt had made this plea in an English court that summer and it was because the magistrate had already heard a similar claim against the Jam Sahib that he decided on this occasion not to dismiss the case on the grounds cited by Hunt but to adjourn it, in order to establish whether indeed Ranjitsinhji could be regarded as in charge of an independent state and therefore entitled to claim immunity. The magistrate said that an interesting and important point had been raised, which had to be gone into sooner or later.

However, before the magistrate could complete his enquiries, the case was settled by other means. Mrs Taylor had asked Walter Long, a Conservative MP, for almost 30 years, to request that Lord Morley, the Secretary of State for India, should intervene on her behalf. The India Office replied that Morley could not do so formally but that he would attempt to use his private influence with Ranjitsinhji. This seemed to do the trick because on July 30 Hunt proposed that if Mrs Taylor would withdraw her court action his client would reconsider her claim and, even if they could not agree a sum between themselves, would be willing to submit to the arbitration of a third party. Mrs Taylor agreed, and the case was dropped.

Seven weeks elapsed and still no offer of any payment was made to her. She began to suspect that Ranjitsinhji's solicitor was deliberately procrastinating. Hunt accounted for the delay by saying it was necessary to first consult MacLaren, who had been involved in the original discussions about her fee, but that MacLaren had been involved in a motor accident and was recuperating in the country.

On Monday, October 5 Mrs Taylor learnt how "astomishingly careless in their handling of the truth" (as she was to write in a letter to Sir Curzon Wylie, the political aide-de-camp to Lord Morley at the India Office) MacLaren and Hunt had been. That morning she read a newspaper report of MacLaren's appearance in Guildford county court the previous Saturday for non-payment of the rates on his house in Alford Parish, which adjoined Shillingtree. MacLaren claimed that the house had been taken for him by Ranjitsinhji, but the magistrate ruled that the rates were in respect of the premises and that they belonged to MacLaren. Unless they were paid by the following Tuesday, the magistrate added, a distress warrant would be issued. As this was the last that was heard of the matter, MacLaren must have paid up, although he probably had to go to Ranjitsinhji for the money.

Mrs Taylor immediately wrote to Wylie, with whom she had recently been in correspondence: "I have this morning heard that there is not, nor has there been a single thing the matter with the Jam Sahib of Nawanganar's personal secretary, Mr A. C. MacLaren. The statement made to you therefore by the representative of Messrs Redfern and Hunt by way of excuses for not having paid my claim are absolutely false.

"The enclosed cutting will show you more plainly than any words of mine what Mr MacLaren's code of honour is. He has carefully instructed the Jam Sahib of Nawanganar in the same — the result of it will be many, many will be 'let in' for large sums, of which a penny will never be paid

These people are so insulting, and though I am quite certain in your presence they behave as they should, out of it, by a letter now before me, they say, 'What can the India Office or Colonel Sir Curzon Wylie do?' Is it meant to go on making untrue excuses and untrue statements. The people of Nawanganar are not very well represented by their Jam Sahib."

After this, officials at the India Office began to head her fears that Hunt was delaying with a view to Ranji fleeing the country. On November 3 they themselves adjudicated on her case. They said that because Mrs Taylor had been foolish enough to keep no copy of the letter in which she made her original request for a sitting (Hunt said the letter was missing, either lost or destroyed), she could not substantiate her claim. However, they retained plenty of criticism for the other party: "The Jam Sahib and his ridiculous private secretary are to blame for keeping the minutes so long" — and felt that, in consideration of his position and as an act of grace, Ranjitsinhji ought to pay her £75.

The earlier case the Brighton magistrate had heard involving Ranjitsinhji was one instigated by four Misses Welch against him, Billy Murdoch, the former Sussex and Australia captain, and his wife, and a Mr F. W. Clements, to recover £923 15s 5d from the terms of an 1896 deed of covenant, the details of which are sadly unknown. Ranji had issued a summons asking that his name be struck out of the action and, although his claim was upheld, the plaintiffs had been given the right to appeal, which was heard in early July by the Judge in Chambers at the Royal Courts of Justice.

Revealingly, the vital evidence at the hearing came from the India Office, which had been asked by the courts to confirm whether Ranjitsinhji was an independent sovereign and entitled to the privileges he claimed. The under-secretary had replied that the matter was one for the courts to decide, but added: "The Jam has been recognised by the Government of India as a ruling chief governing his own territories under the suzerainty of His Majesty... The Government of India do not regard or treat His Highness's territory as being part of British India or of His Majesty's dominions, and they do not regard or treat him or his subjects as subjects of His Majesty." Hardly surprisingly, the judge interpreted this as meaning Ranjitsinhji was indeed an independent sovereign.

In early October, the plaintiffs convinced there must be some means by which they could recover their money, appeared again. Their solicitors wrote to the India Office for assistance, unaware that it had been the source of their earlier defeat. Their case, they said, was to show that Ranji was not an independent sovereign, to do so, they were going to argue that he had been made the ruling chief of Nawanganar by ministers of King Edward VII, who was his suzerain and to whom he owed allegiance. Could the India Office, they asked, provide any evidence of the circumstances of his accession, particularly the supervision exercised by the Resident and the Government of India and thus tacitly accepted by Ranjitsinhji?

This was a penetrating line of argument, but one to which the India Office failed to give an adequate answer. It did what it had been doing for the past several months, to most of the appeals for help made on behalf of Mrs Taylor, the Misses Welch and Ranjitsinhji's numerous other creditors: it sent back a series of vague and unhelpful replies that threatened to ruin their case.

Adapted from *Ranji: A Genius Rich and Strange*, by Simon Wilde, published on May 31 by Kingswood Press (£14.99).

A flight in a Spitfire and a day at Glorious Goodwood

The Times today presents a competition offering the chance to enjoy a most unusual double prize — a flight in a Spitfire and a day's racing at Glorious Goodwood on August 3, plus two nights' accommodation at a leading London hotel.

For this competition, we have linked with the sponsors of the Leslie and Godwin Spitfire Stakes, the race that was known as the Exel Handicap, Leslie and Godwin are leading underwriters. The race is a handicap for three-

year-olds and is run over a mile and two furlongs. The winner, with a guest, will have overnight accommodation in London on the nights of August 2 and 3, with dinner in a first-class restaurant on the first night and in the hotel on the second night. They will have a chauffeur-driven car to take them to the aerodrome on the morning of August 3 for the winner to have his Spitfire flight. They will have lunch and tea in the Members' Restaurant in the Charlton Stand at Goodwood.

And they will be driven back to London. For the runner-up, with guest, there is the same itinerary, but without the Spitfire flight. To enter, study the questions below, complete the entry form, and send it to Leslie and Godwin Spitfire competition, Sports Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive by Monday, July 23. The winner and the runner-up will be the senders of the first two correct entries drawn from those received by the closing date.

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

THE QUESTIONS

- When did Goodwood stage its first racing under Jockey Club rules?
- Who was the winning jockey in the Exel Handicap at Goodwood last year?
- When did the Charlton Stand open at Goodwood?
- In which year did the first Spitfire fly?
- Pat Eddery and Willie Carrasco each rode five winners at the 1989 Goodwood July meeting. Who was the other jockey with five winners at the meeting?

ANSWERS

- 1880
- John Elliott
- 1907
- 1910
- Pat Eddery

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Leslie and Godwin or their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

TWO of yesterday's sporting heroes, John Watson and David Lloyd, take a step into the past this weekend as they seek fresh fame as broadcasters. Watson is back at Silverstone for the British Grand Prix, which in 1981 was the stage for one of his five grand prix victories, and Lloyd returns to Lord's, where he played in six cup finals for Lancashire, captaining them on four occasions and coming away victorious on as many.

The studious, self-effacing Ulsterman and the elegant batsman who opened nine times for England are just two of the ex-sportsmen being recruited by the new satellite channels, and both are quickly earning reputations for quality reporting.

Watson is Eurosport's answer to the BBC's James Hunt. He still races (sports cars these days, not Formula One) and like Hunt he has those years of experience in the driving seat to sense when something is wrong, and, sometimes, what is wrong before it is apparent to most.

There is no hysteria, no character assassination if a driver makes a mistake, merely a softly-spoken, concise explanation — he knows what it is like to make a mistake at 180mph. Watson lives the home of British motor racing.

"They say the British are not emotional," he said.

Quality performances from sporting masters

"That is rubbish. I still shiver whenever I think about Silverstone in 1981. Winning the race was the key, but not what I most remember. Hearing those thousands cheering, seeing them pour over the barriers was the most emotional thing anyone could ever experience."

Watson was cheered by the Ferrari successes in Mexico and France which led to renewed demands for hospitality boxes and Silverstone grandstand seats that are all sold. "It could not have come at a better time," he said. And one of those Ferrari drivers, Nigel Mansell, second in Mexico and hopeful of winning again in his home circuit, was

SPORT ON TV

THE WEEK IN VIEW
KEN LAWRENCE'S guide to the best in televised sport in the week ahead
bubbling with praise about Eurosport's motor racing coverage. "They have to be complimented. They have brought a new dimension to our sport and John Watson is a most perceptive commentator," he said.
Eurosport do not simply turn up for race day; they started their preparations for the Silverstone event more than two weeks ago. Two

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: Peter Elliott runs in the Dream Mile in Oslo (BBC 1, 9.45).
TOMORROW: Nigel Mansell attempts to win the British Grand Prix (BBC 2, 1.25; Eurosport, 12.30).
MONDAY: Colin Jackson goes in the high hurdles at the Pearl Assurance Games (Channel 4, 8.30).
TUESDAY: A (northern) Fishermen's Day — the second in a new series, which sees Derek Law going after trout (BBC 1, 11.30am).
WEDNESDAY: The old master, Kapil Dev, and the young master,

cameras were at the Northamptonshire circuit for tyre testing and they will be there again this weekend for practice; the results of that preparation can be seen at 9.30 this morning and again this evening, and with their live race coverage tomorrow, which starts at 12.30.
They will also repeat the whole race at 11.00pm. BBC will have the public school tones of Hunt to counter the rather higher decibels of Murray Walker at the final practice session today (BBC 1, 12.30) and the race itself in Sunday Grandstand (from 1.25pm).

David Lloyd, who has found life as a radio commentator with the Test Match Special team "amusing", will walk every step of the way with the Lancashire and Worcestershire players as they journey from the dressing room to the field at their Benson and Hedges Cup final today.
"You are very, very conscious of the Long Room, with its leather upholstered arm-chairs. It is a hall of fame; you walk through, down the steps, past the members and you are there. Yes, Lord's is a bit special," he said.

Such intimacy gives Lloyd his feel for the game and certainly accounts for his growing reputation. BSB will show every ball of the 55-over game which, as cricket's marketing men will no doubt have noted, rubbing their hands, is the first Lord's final to be televised exclusively live on satellite.

If Lord's is the stadium home of cricket, then St Andrews is surely the cathedral of golf, and the two up-and-coming satellite commentators can listen and learn from the high priest of golf spokesman, Peter Alliss, next time. Here is another one-time sportsman (a Ryder Cup player, of course) whose sharp awareness and knowledge have made him a magnificent television reporter.

His measured words will bring the Open to life from St Andrews (virtually non-stop coverage on BBC all-day Thursday and sharing with the one-day Texaco Trophy cricket international on Friday and on Eurosport from noon each day).
Bislett means as much to athletes as Lord's and St Andrews do to cricketers and golfers. Peter Elliott, in stunning form, aims to win the Dream Mile, and those twin masters of the commenting-art, David Coleman and Ron Fickering, will report every stride with immense authority (BBC 1 tonight 9.45).

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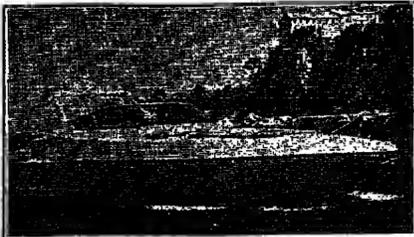
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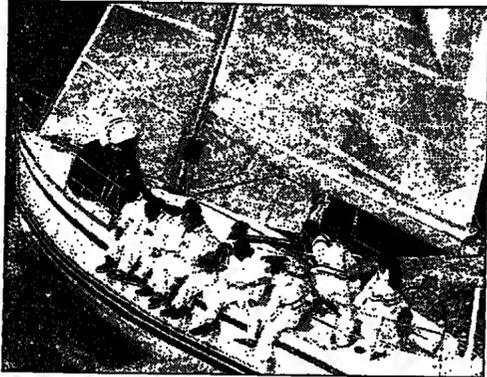
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مركز الامم المتحدة

In at the deep end while they play Devil's Advocate

After 25 years of selling powerboats, Pat and Harry Dodd decided to try their hand at yacht racing. They became hooked on wind power and bought a racer that is to cruising what a GT Ferrari might be to touring, reports Malcolm McKeag



Cutting an expensive dash: the crew on deck in matching oilskins

What do the couple who market the quintessential luxury powerboats, Sunseekers, do on their day off? Race yachts. Harry and Pat Dodd, who sell and distribute more than £8 million-worth of powerboats each year have, after 25 years of living with power cruisers, discovered the joys of sailing.

Typically, having realised what they have been missing, they have gone in at the deep end with a 45ft racing yacht, full-time skipper, top-gun crew and co-ordinated uniforms. And they started only last year. "That's how we do everything," Mrs Dodd says.

A couple whose success is self-induced, Mr and Mrs Dodd enjoy the toys which reaching the top of their business can bring: both have pilots' licences, and use their Piper Malibu to fly to the Mediterranean where they have a house, a boat and another business, selling Sunseeker powerboats.

The Dods' conversion to sailing began when a customer turned his tastes the other way. "We took a sailing boat in a part-exchange and thought we'd give it a try," Mr Dodd explained. "But we don't like second-hand things, so changed that for a new one." The new one was a 44ft Gii/Sea 442, a cruising yacht which they kept at Poole Harbour, Dorset, where their Sunseeker business is based. They cruised a little, then raced at Cowes Week on the Isle of Wight.

"We're both fairly competitive: we like to win; and because the motorboat business has us working virtually every weekend we haven't really any time for cruising, so we

decided to go for something a bit racier."

That is a 45ft Bénéteau 45F5, a cruiser-racer that is to cruising what a GT Ferrari might be to motor touring — the lines of the yacht were styled by Pininfarina. "I stands for Bruce Farr, arguably the world's most successful racing yacht designer (his designs took the top three places in the Whitbread race, top score at last year's Admiral's Cup and dominate the international 50ft circuit). The Dods chose the 45 because it was, in Mrs Dodd's phrase, "both stylish and competitive", which might not be a bad description of how the owners of Devil's Advocate see themselves.

"In fact", Mr Dodd says, "we're already thinking more competitive, next time." The stylish interior, with its richly varnished mahogany and its less-than-practical cream leather upholstery, is already showing signs of the hard wear any racing boat interior endures as booted crewmen drag sails on deck.

Below, where the brochure says Mrs Dodd should be entertaining guests, she re-packs the billowing acres of nylon spinnaker, ready for the next hoist. Buttered rolls, six-packs and the odd anticipatory bottle of champagne are all that occupy, but far from fill, the fridge and ice box; the cooker looks decidedly unused. "I suppose the interior is a bit wasted on us," Mrs Dodd says.

The fact that he knows little of yacht racing, and must therefore sit tight while his crew sail his boat for him, does not worry Mr Dodd. "I am learning fast, and if we want to win we have to have good people sailing the boat."

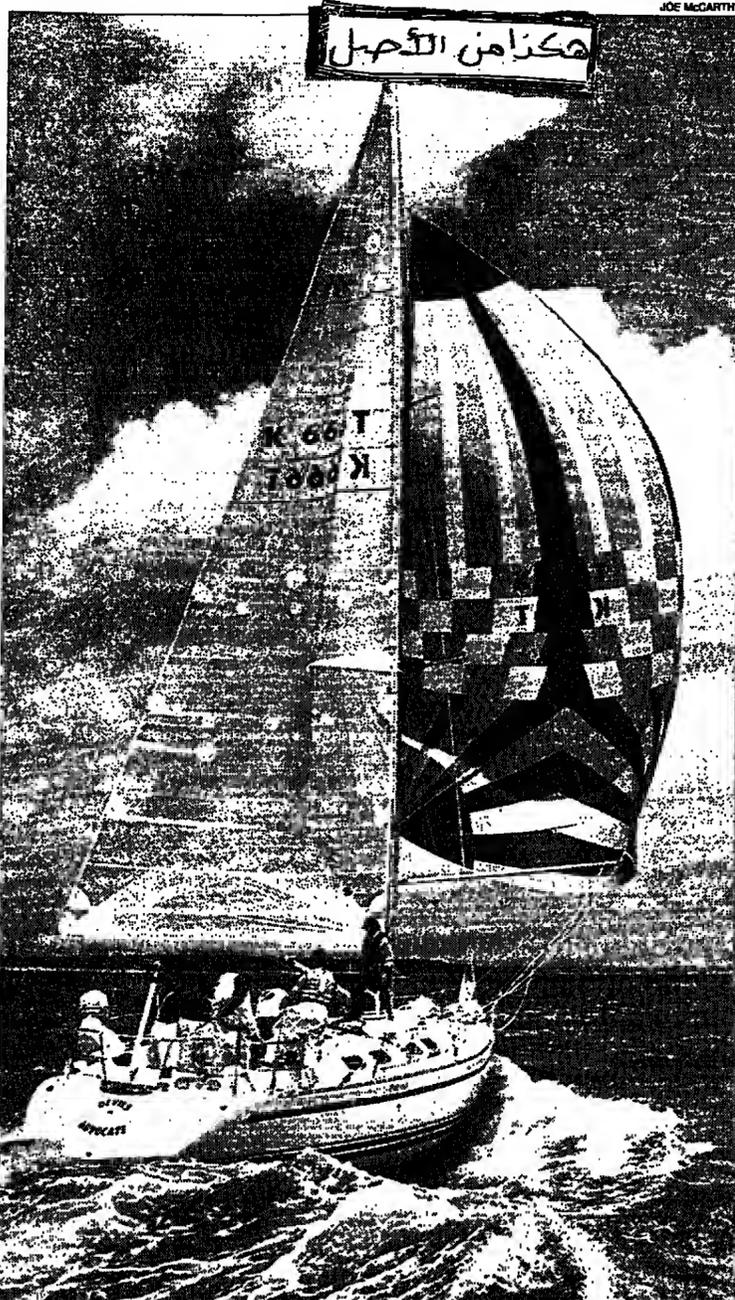
Racing a 45ft yacht is a skilled job for ten talented people, looking after her a full-time task for one. When he decided to go yacht racing, Mr Dodd knew he had not the skills to manage the former, nor the time for the latter. He found himself a skipper who could do both, and together they plan Devil's Advocate's itinerary and programme. The skipper finds the crew.

At this level of racing, somewhere below the so-called grand prix circuit where crews are fully professional and a season's racing campaign can see away £100,000, but somewhere above the strictly weekend bobby level, where the owner

owns the boat and the crew help pay the running expenses, Mr Dodd reckons a newcomer to the game, entering at the level he has chosen, should plan to spend 10 per cent over the cost of the boat simply on running her.

Equipped for racing, a Bénéteau 45F5 costs around £123,000 plus VAT. Waterproof costs, say, £200 a set: a boat like Devil's Advocate will need 14 suits. White crews have their own, they may not be of the right colour; if an owner wants his yacht to cut a dash, matching oilskins are part of the dash.

'I am learning fast, and if we want to win we have to have good people sailing the boat'



There she blows: Devil's Advocate, top yacht over all at least weekend's Bénéteau Regatta at Cowes

Plastic bags stop foul play

A COWES-BASED company has come up with what customers claim to be the ultimate solution to the problem of fouling. The idea is simple — keep your boat in an enclosed PVC bag and feed the water with a sterilising agent — but it has taken the banning of powerful anti-fouling paints and the spiralling costs of repainting to make it viable.

"It's brilliant," says Ian de le Vingne, owner of a 23ft Sealine power-cruiser. "It has kept my boat clean for a year." An electronic sensor measures the water purity in the PVC bag and operates a pump to inject minute quantities of a chlorine-based chemical that degrades to ash once its job is done.

"We went over to Cherbourg and got weathered in for four weeks," says Mr de le Vingne. "When I went back for the boat she was covered in weed, but after a long weekend in the bag it all fell off and the speed increased by five knots."

In another long-term test, an unpainted Fairline 36 powerboat was left untouched

Someone let the cat out of the bag



from September to April in an Aqua-Tech dock at a muddy marina berth on the Hamble. When the stern section of the dock was lowered and the boat floated out, the water in the bag remained clean apart from a deposit of mud. More importantly, the bottom of the boat was just as clean with the exception of a tide mark and a few patches of dead weed and mud, which were easily wiped away.

The price of an Aqua-Tech dock for a 23ft yacht is £910, or £1,300 for a 30ft vessel, and the cost of chemicals is about £4 a month. The equipment carries a five-year guarantee and, according to the manufacturers, has a life expectancy of more than 15 years.

For more information Aqua-Tech Marine, Medina Court, Arlet Road, Cowes PO1 1AD (0983 297530).

STATISTICAL LOGBOOK OF THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

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- Displacement: 10.5 tons
- Designer: Bruce Farr
- Exterior styling and internal design: Pininfarina
- Construction: made of fibreglass-reinforced plastic
- Price: from £123,000 plus VAT
- Builder: Bénéteau, France
- UK supplier: Bénéteau UK Ltd, Cougar Quay School Lane, Hamble, Hants SO3 5JD. Telephone 0703 454022

A new generation of electronic safety equipment has been developed for the fast location and recovery of men overboard

The danger of complacency

They call all yachtsmen dread is "Man overboard!" Too many accidents are caused by complacency and ignorance, often within sight of land, and even the best-prepared crews have found themselves facing disaster.

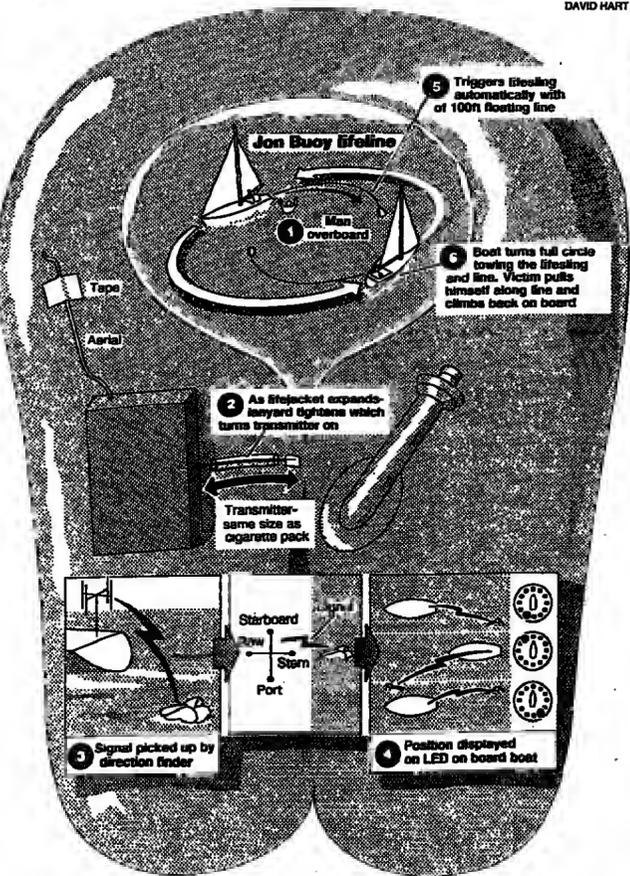
During the recent Whitbread Round the World race, there were six man-overboard cases during the southern ocean stages alone. It was the struggle those crews had, first in locating, and then in recovering their crewmates that has led to the development of a new generation of safety equipment.

Before the race, concern among skippers about the effectiveness of location and survival equipment led *The Times* to instigate tests that showed up such worrying inadequacies that the Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC) was prompted to bring together international experts to perfect systems suitable for racers and cruisers.

Financed by Whitbread, BOC, British Steel and Rothmans, the group, which includes former round-the-world yachtsmen Chay Blyth and Robin Knox-Johnston, and Dr Richard Allen, the military scientist based at Farnborough, Hampshire, who has done much to improve the location and recovery of downed airmen, worked to develop safety products.

For the Whitbread crews, location was the biggest headache during a man-overboard emergency. By the time they can turn their yachts around, the victim has dropped out of sight in the ocean swells. However, a month before the start, Dr Allen and his team had developed a prototype homing system that was later fitted to eight of the Whitbread yachts and saved two lives during the event.

Their ideas were so successful that it has prompted the EEC to set new regulations to encourage manufacturers to develop miniaturised versions for general use. The equipment includes a direction-finding VHF receiver and



aircraft fitted to the yachts and personal VHF beacons, or emergency position indicating repeating beacons (EPIRBs), carried by crew, which transmit on the 121.5MHz emergency frequency. No larger than a cigarette pack, these new beacons are small enough to be worn on a lifejacket and will go off automatically when

it inflates. The signal is picked up by an Adcock antenna mounted either at the mast-head or on the stern of the yacht. The angle is shown in relation to the yacht's heading on a LED display. The helmsman just has to turn the yacht until the heading and light match and follow that bearing back to the victim.

This prototype equipment costs more than £3,000, but Local Developments of Hull, a maker of EPIRBs, will launch a simpler version to meet new EEC safety regulations for about £600. Local Developments, United Hull University Science Park, Inglemire Lane, Hull HU6 7TQ. (0482 804530).



Automatic distress beacons: to be worn by all on board

Protecting the family sailors

Having perfected a location system for fully crewed yachts, *The Times*/RORC committee turned its attention to the problems faced by solo sailors and the family man with an inexperienced crew. What was needed was a system to stop the yacht and drop a line for the victim to pull himself back on board.

Dr Allen and his team had been impressed during early trials by the electronic trigger produced by Transqua Technology, in Cornwall, by which a small water-activated transmitter worn by the crew launches a Jon-Buoy life-raft within seconds of them falling overboard. What if this could be harnessed through an onboard interface to automatically launch a buoyant life-line and, call on the autopilot to perform circles around the victim?

The trials carried out on a Sigma 33 yacht in force 4-5 conditions proved highly successful. With Coastguard officers acting as victims, the life-line and 100ft of line launched within five seconds of the automatic alarm and landed within easy reach of the victims, who were able to pull over the sling as the yacht went into its first tack. She

then traced a slow 225ft diameter course, fetching up within three feet of our guinea-pigs as they continued to pull in the line.

By the time the yacht had made a second turn, this time fetching up 30ft downwind of the original position, they had pulled in sufficient line to reach up and pull themselves back on board.

The test was repeated six times, but whether beating, reaching or running, the results were the same: the victim always managed to get back on board unaided.

The system has an equal application for power as well as sail boats, and Transqua Technology and Nautech, the Portsmouth-based manufacturers of auto-pilots, intend later this year to introduce a production version that will incorporate a rope ladder at the tethered end to make it easier to climb back on board and which will provide a hand-held clam cleat attached to the line to help the victims pull themselves back on board.

Transqua Technology Ltd, Moss Side Industrial Estate, Callington, Cornwall. PL11 7DU. (0579 83366) Nautech Ltd, Anchorage Park, Portsmouth Hants PO3 5TD. (0705 693611)

Queen Mum to review the fleet

The Queen Mother requests the pleasure of all yachtsmen and women to celebrate her ninetieth birthday with a review of the fleet in the Solent on Monday, July 30.

The Solent Cruising and Racing Association, expect more than 2,000 yachts from 50 clubs to take part in the salute to Her Majesty aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia. "This is going to be the most dramatic yachting event in living memory," organiser Rikki Hamilton-Parks says. Escorted by HMS Broadsword, Britannia will sail from Portsmouth at 5pm on July 30 and pass by the yacht which will be anchored from Spithead to Ryde. Those wishing to take part should apply to the Solent Cruising and Racing Association at The Quay, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight (0983 761228) by July 16.

Aided by audio compasses and raised contour charts, 44 budding sailors set out from Falmouth recently on a unique offshore sailing course for the blind, organised by the RYA Seamanship Foundation. The compass fitted to each of the 22 yachts in the fleet provides an audible signal to tell the helmsman when he is off course, while the special charts allow students to "feel" the shape of the coastline they are sailing along. At the end of steering during a six-hour thrash to windward Nicholas Fenn said: "For one glorious afternoon I forgot I was blind."

Where did the sport of yachting originate? Which is the world's oldest yacht club? Who was the first to sail across the Atlantic singlehanded? These and other questions are answered in the *History of Yachting*, written by Robin Knox-Johnston and launched this week by Phaidon Press (£19.95). Mr Knox-Johnston, of course, has his own niche in history, having been the

first to sail non-stop round the world alone in 1969. According to his research, it was the Dutch who taught us the art of mixing business with pleasure on the water, while the little-known American, Josiah Shackford, claims the first Atlantic solo crossing from Bordeaux to Surinam in 1786.

This is a book to dip into for answers about almost every event and daring deed from the America's Cup down to the exploits of Sir Francis Chichester, Chay Blyth and Knox-Johnston himself.

Peace in Europe will mean more intense battles at sea. The "warships" will be high-tech sailing boats battling for the America's Cup. Or so is the theory of Warwick Collins, writer and yacht designer.

Mr Collins' novel, *Challenge* (Pan £12.95), is set ten years from now. The US and USSR are at peace but fierce rivalry still exists between them. Via a unilateral challenge for the America's Cup — a la Michael Fay — the Soviets seek a publicity coup.

Yachts, and the sailors who race them, become the symbols of superpower competition. It puts enormous pressures, not all of them entirely understood, on the key sportsmen.

Anyone who doubts the truth of this prediction should simply look back to the Whitbread Race last October. Fazio, the Soviet entry, arrived into Punta del Este at the end of the first leg in sixth place. It was creditable for a new boat but skipper Alexei Gryshchenko walked into a quet Uruguayan wood and hanged himself. On one level the book is an enjoyable adventure story, the racing passages are gripping and most of the characters credible enough. However, its implicit and convincing assumptions about how the sport will develop at the highest international level are its major claim for attention.

Executive Editor David Brewerton

BUSINESS

Regulators may act to recover £1.7m from DPR

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

CITY regulators may start court action to recover £1.7 million of investors' money from DPR Futures despite its three directors and an employee being cleared of dishonest trading on Thursday.

The Securities and Investments Board was granted leave by the High Court in November 1988 to seek restitution from DPR under the terms of the Financial Services Act. DPR is in liquidation and said to have cash of more than £1 million.

The money was invested by DPR's clients between April and July 1988, when the firm was regulated under the FSA, until

it was closed down by the SIB. An SIB spokesman said the board is reviewing its position in the light of the four acquittals.

DPR's former directors, Marcus Deller, Andrew Page and David Rycott, have said they will try to recover the money from the firm, which is in the hands of its liquidators. They have also threatened to sue the SIB over the firm's closure, even though the law gives the SIB almost complete exemption from liability for damages. DPR's former investors can also take action against the firm to recover damages, and may recover more than the SIB.

The Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, the City watchdog on futures

trading, says it still has "serious reservations" about firms like DPR, whose three former directors were cleared at the Old Bailey of dishonest trading.

Philip Thorpe, the association's chief executive, said the body "would have serious doubts about the men's ability to continue a similar type of business".

He said any new application for a trading licence would be treated on its merits, with regard to the applicant's previous conduct. "If someone shows they have learned by their mistakes, that is a different matter."

DPR was the first futures trader to be refused authorisation by the association when the FSA came into force two years ago. "We were appalled by them. We had a

mailbag full of complaints," said Christopher Sharpley, the association's chairman.

The association took the extreme step of alerting the SIB to DPR. On July 11 1988, the SIB froze the firm, declaring it "was not fit to carry on the business of broking in futures and options". It said: "Investors have been, and continue to be, at serious financial risk." Five days later, DPR was wound up in the High Court.

DPR's 3,400 clients were attracted by a brochure, *Opportunities Unlimited*, which read: "The rewards can be greater and faster than any other form of financial speculation." The brochure was illustrated with photographs of Porches, a large

house, and a busy dealing room. Customers were telephoned frequently by DPR's salesmen, who offered to invest large sums in commodity futures to make fast profits. Clients complained of the high commission rates the firm charged. DPR justified these as paying for its stop-loss facility, guaranteeing investors would not lose more than their original investment.

During the four-month trial, the four men insisted they had warned customers of the risks involved in futures trading. The three founders set up DPR in 1986, with £10,000 each. They had previously worked for LHW, another futures firm which was closed last year after being refused authorisation by the AFBD.

Warning as BICC purchase is cleared

CLEARANCE OF BICC's acquisition of Sterling Greengate, a rival cable maker, has been linked to a warning about any further mergers in the cables industry (Derek Harris writes).

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission said that any further reduction of competition might give rise to concern.

The clearance brought an announcement from BICC that the phased closure of an Aldermaston, Berkshire, factory of Sterling Greengate would mean 380 job losses.

Production will be switched to other BICC factories in the Northwest and Wrexham, involving 100 new jobs. Sterling's Warrington, Cheshire, factory will continue the manufacture of power cables.

In the BICC enquiry three cables sectors were under scrutiny. These were mains cables, rubber-sheathed highly flexible elastomeric wiring cables and PVC armoured wiring cables. The MMC found that the merger resulted in combined market shares of 35 per cent for mains, 37 per cent for elastomeric and 23 per cent for PVC armoured cables.

At the same time there would still be at least three main British competitors in each of these markets.

Inflation highest since 1982

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

ANNUAL inflation last month rose to 9.5 per cent, its highest since March 1982, and appeared to be on course for a double-digit peak this summer.

The figures from the Central Statistical Office were in line with expectations. They come a week after a statement by John Major, the chancellor, that it was taking longer than expected to bring inflation down. But yesterday's retail price index for June provided an encouraging underlying picture, showing inflation flattening out.

Despite the June rise, most City forecasters still expect headline inflation to peak slightly above 10 per cent next month. The subsequent fall is, however, expected to be slower than previously predicted, leaving inflation at about 9 per cent in December. This makes the 7.25 per cent final quarter forecast made by Mr Major in the Budget look over-optimistic.

However, the underlying rate preferred by the government, which excludes mortgage and poll tax payments, fell to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent in May. But there are indications that the rate may rise next month after beer price increases of up to 6p a pint.

The government uses this underlying measure to compare Britain's performance with that of European countries. At 6.9 per cent, the rate is still about 2 per cent above Britain's European Community partners. In West Germany, it was 2.3 per cent. A British inflation rate "proxi-mate" to the EC average is one of the conditions the government has set for taking sterling into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. And expectations of early ERM entry have been fuelling the pound for the past two months.

Mr Major, speaking on BBC Radio 4, said the June infla-

tion figure was a "good deal higher" than he would want to see it, and that he would not be content when it started to come down. He challenged the view that policy was off course, saying that it was just taking a "little longer" than the government had imagined to bring inflation down.

City economists were mildly encouraged by the underlying rates, seeing signs that the former pound and the squeeze on company profits were bearing down well on inflation. Most still expect both retail price and underlying inflation to peak in August. But rises in the coming two months may not be significant.

Ruth Lea, an economist at Mitsubishi Bank, said: "Inflation certainly is flattening out. With any luck, the underlying rate should stop accelerating."

Joe Roseman, an economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, thinks inflation may be set to decline. "There are clear deflationary forces at work in the economy. Using the Treasury's definition, the underlying rate may have peaked at 7 per cent," he said.

Price increases in the pipeline include a substantial rise in beer prices, some foods, electricity, some household goods and insurance. Summer sales should bring falls in the price of clothes and footwear. Petrol is also expected to fall.

The pound firmed on the inflation news to reach 93.7 on its trade-weighted index at noon. It closed at 93.5, 0.2 of a point up on Thursday's close, and recovering some of the ground lost after remarks by Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary, about Germany wanting to take over Europe.

The American government yesterday reported a moderate easing of one measure of inflation last month. The news could provide the Federal Reserve Board more room for manoeuvre if it decides to lower interest rates (Susan

Ellicott writes). Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed, said on Thursday that the central bank might need to reduce interest rates to maintain American economic growth amid "cumulative evidence" of a credit crunch that extends beyond real estate.

The American labour department said the producer price index, which measures inflation at the wholesale level, rose 0.2 per cent in June against 0.3 per cent in May. But the core rate of wholesale inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy prices, showed a 0.6 per cent increase. This could cause concern at the Fed.

In New York, the dollar opened lower, but share prices rallied in response to Mr Greenspan's testimony before the Senate banking committee.

His comments were the first public acknowledgement by the Fed that a squeeze on bank lending may be hampering American economic performance and that the Fed might be willing to shift from a policy aimed at fighting inflation. He said, however, that any action by the central bank would be "modest" because he did not see any single weakness in the economy that would justify an easing of interest rates.

One survey of retail sales, released this week by Merrill Lynch, found that warm weather last month across most of America boosted sales of clothing and other season-related goods.

The gain in the core inflation rate at the wholesale level last month was the largest since a 0.7 per cent gain in June last year. Wall Street analysts were expecting the index, which provides the first indication of the likely overall inflation rate for June by measuring the cost of goods at all stages of production, to be between 0.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent.



Giving a 6.9%: John Major, encouraged by the underlying inflation rate, plays the game

Bankers insist on Ferranti cash call

By Angela Mackay

FERRANTI International, the electronics company, must make a one-for-four rights issue raising £46.8 million before its bankers agree a two-year funding package for the company next week.

The issue is fully underwritten by Baring Brothers and institutional investors including Elekta Investment Trust, Phillips & Drew Fund Management, Globe Investment Trust and Postel.

The issue is conditional on Ferranti abandoning a £62.38 million loan stock agreement and new banking facilities. Details of the issue and the company's 1989-90 results will be announced after the new funding package is signed.

Ferranti has sold assets worth about £400 million since disclosing in September that it had been the victim of an alleged fraud by executives that had siphoned £215 million from it over several years.

The sales of the radar and sonar divisions have transformed the company from a defence group into primarily a civil electronics group. Ferranti shares ended unchanged at 35p yesterday. The issue was not announced until after the market closed.

In February, the company scrapped a £187 million rights issue after GEC agreed to buy the radar operation for £310 million. The steady loan stock facility replaced that rights issue and the underwriters of the old rights issue are behind the new equity.

A syndicate of 27 banks would not agree the new long-term facilities unless extra equity was raised. They will sign an agreement for a package worth about £275 million, including contingencies and certain bonds. Net debt will be about £100 million. Ferranti says the arrangements will finance recovery.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8087 (+0.0172) W German mark 2.9696 (-0.0035) Exchange index 93.5 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1880.1 (+10.0) FT-SE 100 2382.2 (+11.7) New York Dow Jones 2994.55 (+24.75) Tokyo Nikkei Avge 32644.37 (+69.05) Closing Prices ... Page 45

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15% 3-month Interbank 14 1/2-14 3/4% 3-month eligible bills: 14 3/4-14 1/2% US: Prime Rate 10% Federal Funds 8 1/4% 3-month Treasury Bills 7.52-7.60% 30-year bonds 10 2/8-10 2 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: \$: \$1.8087 £: £1.5129 DM: DM 1.6430 Sfr: Sfr 1.3920 FF: FF 5.1136 Yen: Yen 147.551 Index: 93.5 SDR: SDR 1.749344 ECU: ECU 4.36899 SDR: SDR 1.334500

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$359.10 pm \$363.60 close \$364.25-364.75 (201.75-202.25) New York: Comex \$366.10-366.60

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$17.40 bbl (\$17.50) * Denotes latest trading price

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for Commodity, Bank, and Price. Includes items like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA, Yugoslavia.

Cazenove defends deal

By Colin Campbell

CAZENOVE, Hawker Siddeley's stockbroker, yesterday defended its actions on Thursday when it made a 1.1 million to 1.5 million matched deal in Hawker shares immediately before Hawker gave warning that 1990 results could be dented by £30 million because of contract losses.

Anthony Forbes, Cazenove's joint senior partner, said in reaction to suggestions that Cazenove had been dealing in Hawker Siddeley shares for the past two weeks, and in particular reference to the firm's role on Thursday morning: "We are not market-makers. We act as agents in the normal course of business on behalf of clients."

At 2pm on Thursday, Hawker made an announcement to the International Stock Exchange that, because of contract losses it had just identified, 1990 profits were

likely to be dented by between £25 million and £30 million.

Hawker shares fell immediately and at their worst were 79p down on the pre-announcement level of 610p.

Before the announcement, Cazenove had effected a share transaction between a matched buyer and seller involving a parcel of shares at a 16p discount to the then ruling market price.

The shares eased a further 2p to 546p yesterday as investors continued to lick their wounds after the warning.

Hawker Siddeley executives were repairing fences with City analysts, many of whom feel let down by Thursday's warning and the day's events. In April, the divisional manager of Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering resigned and the group has been beset by speculation about problem areas ever since. Cazenove

said it did not comment on market developments, nor on its clients' business, but the firm's specific transaction on Thursday has been described by other brokers as being "unfortunate".

The broker is not, however, alone in having been a seller of Hawker shares. City forecasts of likely 1990 and 1991 profits have been heavily scaled down.

Hawker Siddeley had seen several analysts after announcing 1989 results on March 28, showing pre-tax profits of £202.1 million.

The annual meeting was held on May 11, and several brokers have downgraded their 1990 forecasts. Profit estimates were cut further yesterday.

Hawker Siddeley insists it gave its Thursday afternoon warning as soon as possible, and it was only last Friday that sufficient information had

been gathered which led to the assessment that 1990 profits would be hit by between £25 million and £30 million.

Because of the volatility of Thursday's share price movements, an enquiry has automatically been launched by the ISE.

Hawker Siddeley believes it has now properly identified the problem areas and "put a strap around them", though it gave warning that results in the first half of this year would be especially hit by the contract losses.

Interim results could be additionally dented by the strength of the pound, it said, because of the translation of overseas earnings into sterling.

Analysts had previously been forecasting 1990 pre-tax profits of £230 million. Now they are forecasting £180 million.

Opposition likely from EC governments Brittan attacks pension cartel

From Peter Guilford in Brussels

SIR Leon Brittan, EC commissioner for competition policy and financial services, has confirmed his ambitions to remove the veil of national protection which currently prevents Europe's pension funds from investing and recruiting managers and subscribers from abroad.

"The Commission's objective is at once to permit cross-border membership, management and investment of pension funds, and in the process to secure a relaxation of national rules which are neither justified on prudential grounds, nor in the best interests of pension fund members, nor compatible with freedom of capital movement within the community," he said yesterday.

His goal, he said during a speech to the Institute of

Chartered Accountants in Brussels, is to offer pension funds the benefits currently being made available to other financial services in the Community. "It is only fair that pension funds should enjoy the single European market now being introduced for insurance companies offering supplementary pension schemes," he said.

Sir Leon hopes this will encourage the formation and expansion of pan-European companies and ensure the optimum employment of pension fund assets throughout Europe.

It is no mean task, and is sure to provoke opposition among the EC's member governments, some of which insist that their domestic pension funds invest at least part of their assets in government

bonds. Moreover, all matters relating to social security are jealously guarded by sovereignly-conscious governments, and considered out-of-bounds for Brussels legislators.

While citing pension funds as just one of a list of services which remain over-protected, Sir Leon was equally wary of the side-effects of free competition. As domestic markets are priced open, he said, firms could increasingly seek refuge in large-scale cross-border cartels in order to shield themselves from the rigours of competition.

Sir Leon has backed the need for East Germany to enjoy continued protection from Western competition before joining the main flow of Western competition as a fully fledged part of the EC.

Ridley loses battle against mower merger

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor



Riding high: Bob Dods, the chief executive of Ransomes, Europe's biggest lawnmower maker

AS IF Nicholas Ridley, the trade and industry secretary, did not have enough troubles on his plate. Yesterday his one-man crusade to protect the interests of people buying ride-on lawnmowers came to naught.

At the end of February, Mr Ridley, a keen gardener, ignored the advice of Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, and sent an agreed merger between Ransomes of Ipswich, Europe's largest manufacturer of grass-cutting machinery, and Westwood Engineering, owner of Laser Lawnmowers, to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation.

The £9 million deal increased 200-year-old Ransomes' manufacturing capacity in sit-on mowers and garden tractors.

Sir Gordon had looked into the merger and had told Mr Ridley that there was no need for the commission to be called in.

Mr Ridley, who lists gardening among his leisure interests in *Who's Who*, thought otherwise.

He was worried that Sir Gordon and his team had encountered uncertainties in trying to establish the extent of market shares. He also wanted to know the possible effects of the merger on the

distribution of other types of domestic lawnmower. It was the first time a trade secretary had rejected the director general's advice purely on competition grounds. On the two previous occasions Sir Gordon's advice was ignored other issues were involved.

The commission took less than five months to report to Mr Ridley. It found that the merger did give Ransomes, whose chief executive is Bob Dods, worth, the largest share of the British market for ride-on lawnmowers. However, the commission said it thought Ransomes would not be able to dominate the market because of competition from a wide range of mainly international manufacturers.

It also decided that Ransomes' leading position at the upper end of the traditional, walk-behind lawnmower market would be unaffected by the merger because Westwood no longer sold such machines.

The commission ruled that, after the merger, Ransomes would be unlikely to be able to exert undue pressure on dealers to sell its machines in preference to those of competitors.

It concluded that the merger was unlikely to prove to be harmful to the public interest. As a result there is no

scope for action by Mr Ridley. The commission did, however, argue that the Ransomes acquisition showed that main dealers were restricted in the amount of discount they could offer retail outlets. This, it said, could be considered a form of resale price maintenance.

Sir Gordon will be taking this matter up with the industry as a whole because of the commission's belief that this practice may be common among both manufacturers and importers of lawnmowers.

The commission also looked at Ransomes' acquisition of the Cushman group, a North American grass-cutting machinery company, for £95 million. This investigation was recommended by Sir Gordon.

The merger gave Ransomes only a small increase in market share in Britain and was unlikely to be against the public interest, the commission decided.

When Ransomes mounted the bid last autumn it saw the deal as strengthening its foothold in the North American market.

Cushman sells its machinery mainly to golf courses and Mr Dodsworth believes it will leave Ransomes well placed to exploit a forecast 10 per cent growth in the number of golf courses in North America.

Taylor Young Investment Management. PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT FOR THE DISCERNING PRIVATE CLIENT. CONTACT CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR-YOUNG OR FRANCIS BARING, 15 CURLEW STREET, BUTLERS WHARF, LONDON SE1 2ND. TELEPHONE 071-407 3452. A MEMBER OF IMRO.

مركز الأبحاث

HunterPrint loss deepens to £6.62m at interim stage

By JONATHAN PRYNN

HUNTERPRINT Group, the loss-making specialist printing company, has fallen deeper into the red during the six months to end-March. Pre-tax losses reached £6.62 million, against a £2.31 million profit for the same period last year and a £2.2 million loss for the 1989 full year.

Michael Hunter, the chairman, said the losses were caused by a downturn in advertising-related printing expenditure and by problems linked to its £30 million investment in a printing factory at Corby, Northamptonshire.

The factory suffered production disruptions caused by the reluctance of skilled staff to move from the other production sites in Hampshire and Durham when property prices were falling. Of the 220 employees who had said they would relocate, only 69 moved, said Mr Hunter. The new factory needed 310 staff, most of whom had to be found through "a major recruitment and training programme". Mr Hunter said the produc-

tion problems had now mainly been tackled. Winning back several big customers had contributed to a 70 per cent improvement in forward orders between April and July. Although the magazine and catalogue division was still losing money, he said: "I am anticipating a return to profit in the last quarter of the calendar year."

But analysts said HunterPrint would continue to be hit by the depression in the advertising spend market. The Advertising Association has predicted a 4-4.5 per cent fall in expenditure this year, the worst downturn since 1974-5.

Tim Rothwell, BZW printing and publishing analyst, forecast a £12 million to £13 million loss for the full year. "I don't see any upturn in the advertising figures until the second quarter of next year."

The company is also suffering from a ravaged balance sheet after the Corby investment. The £1.86 million half-year interest charge compares with £145,000 at last year-end.

Ferry chief stands by to repel boarders



Norman Corlett, chairman of Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, which yesterday published a defence document rejecting a £17.25 million hostile bid by Sea Containers, prepares to board one of his company's ferries. Steam Packet says the 115p a share offer is "wholly unwelcome" and "amounts to a derisory multiple of less than six times historic earnings"

Connell rejects L&G's approach

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Connell, the residential and commercial estate agent, dropped 9p to 140p, as the company announced it had rejected a takeover approach from its 15 per cent shareholder Legal & General.

Connell also announced it was formally ending its insurance tie with L&G, a two-year tie that expired at the end of March. An L&G spokesman confirmed the bid approach and subsequent rejection but pointed out that L&G had been invited to make an offer by Connell.

It is the second time that the stock market has been wrong-footed by movements in the Connell share price. On Thursday, Connell's shares jumped 24p to 249p on hopes that a bid from L&G would be agreed, while last December its shares rose by more than 100p in anticipation of a bid. It never came, although chairman John Simson made it clear that an offer at the right price would be considered.

Paul Bown, chairman of the residential division, said: "The bid did not reflect the current or strategic value of the company, so the board were unable to recommend its acceptance." He said the announcement of the ending of the tie with L&G was coincidental with the rejection of the bid approach.

He confirmed that the company would be looking to form a new arrangement with another company. "We are still looking to tie and a number of financial services companies are very interested in tying with us."

The L&G spokesman said: "Our business relationships are ultimately governed by bottom-line considerations. If this means we lose a major tied agent as a result of their obtaining higher terms than we are prepared to offer, then so be it." He said Connell accounted for less than 1 per cent of L&G's life and pensions business.

Unlike the Prudential, which earlier this week closed down 175 of its 675 branches, L&G did not participate in the late Eighties rush to buy local estate agents. L&G has built up its chain of 300 in the last year, during which the slump in house prices has made many estate agents loss-making, and therefore far cheaper, to buy. Connell, with its chain of 113 branches, looked an ideal addition.

Distributors walk a tightrope in run-up to great electricity sale

By MARTIN WALLER

ALL but one of the 12 electricity distribution firms in England and Wales will admit on Thursday that they have failed to reach government profitability targets in their latest financial years.

The news could be seen as a serious embarrassment to the companies, heading for privatisation by the end of this year. However, the figures are being viewed by analysts as merely another round in the tug-of-war taking place between the power industry and the energy department.

The 12 companies will produce accounts for the financial year to March 31, and all but one, Yorkshire Electricity, will have failed to reach the target of 4.75 per cent return on current cost net assets.

In all, the 12 will report trading profits of about £800

million, or half that on current cost accounting, little changed on the previous year.

Four main factors depress the figures. The mild winter will have hit distributors that rely heavily on the domestic market, such as Eastern Electricity and Southern Electric, and there were also costs from storm damage.

Estimates are that electricity consumption rose by only between 1.4 per cent and 1.5 per cent in the 1989-90 financial year, against a forecast 2 per cent. This figure includes industrial and commercial use, which should have held up fairly well, and so hides a big drop in domestic use.

The companies had to invest heavily in management skills to cope with new arrangements under the break-up of the old Central Electric-

ity Generating Board, including the power-pooling intended to inject competition into the system. There are further costs connected with the sell-off, up from earlier estimates after delays.

Analysts suspect that the companies will try to load as much cost as possible into the 1989-90 year, their last in public ownership, given the negotiations just completed over their capital structure and the amount of debt to be imposed on them after flotation. Several have been spending heavily on refurbishing their high street outlets, seen as a potential source of profit once the retail slump ends.

In massaging profits downwards, the distributors are walking a tightrope. Too much downplaying may hit the City's perception of them

this autumn, when marketing gets underway.

The capital structures for the 12 post-privatisation will also be announced soon.

Many distributors should have gearing, expressed as a debt-to-equity ratio, of about 30 per cent and upwards next March, the end of the current financial year. The exception seems to be Eastern, with the biggest area and recent heavy modernisation. Its gearing is thought to be near 45 per cent.

The assumption, as with past state sales, is that profits growth came from efficiency savings. "We have to assume there will be some - otherwise there's not much point in buying the wretched shares," a broker said. Another said: "We need to know what's happening to electricity trends."

Accor becomes world's top hotel firm with \$1.3bn buy

Dallas MOTEL 6, the American budget motel company, is to be acquired by Accor SA, the French hotel giant, for \$1.3 billion in cash, the two companies announced.

The deal is considered a coup for Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Co., the leveraged-buyout firm that in 1985 bought Motel 6 and took the company private.

It will make Accor the world's largest owner and operator of hotel rooms, with more than 160,000 rooms. The company operates 850 hotels at present in 60 countries.

Besides paying the \$1.3 billion in cash for Motel 6, a publicly-traded limited partnership, Accor is assuming debts of approximately \$1 billion, giving Kohlberg, Kravis a return of more than five times of its original \$125 million investment. Kohlberg, Kravis bought Motel 6 for

\$881 million, including \$125 million in equity and \$756 million in debt, in February 1985.

A year after the 1985 buyout, Kohlberg, Kravis sold nearly half of Motel 6's common units to the public, but kept control of the Dallas-based company.

After the original investment, Motel 6's franchise value rose steadily, with more than \$200 million invested by Kohlberg, Kravis.

"KKR has done an excellent job of turning around the fundamentals and maximising the value of the Motel 6 name," said Burland East, a real estate analyst at Buzeman Eichler, Hill Richards, in Los Angeles.

"Now is a very good time to sell the company, and this is a real home run." Although the transaction was announced after the financial markets closed, ru-

mors of a possible deal circulated during the day. Motel 6's units rose \$2.625 on Thursday to \$19.25 in heavy trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Options to buy the units soared in trading at the Chicago Board Options Exchange.

Motel 6's revenues last year were \$475 million, compared with \$226 million in 1984, and operating income is expected to rise to \$216 million this year (\$122 million in 1984).

Accor, the world's eighth-largest hotel company, owns the Novotel and Sofitel hotel chains that operate properties in New York City.

Accor's 1990 sales are estimated at \$4 billion, with net income of approximately \$150 million. In addition to hotels, it also operates nearly 3,000 restaurants. The Accor offer, at \$22.50 a unit, is to begin no later than Wednesday.

(New York Times)

Howe urges East to sell state firms

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

SIR Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, pressed foreign governments yesterday to sell off state firms as part of a long-term commitment to privatisation, even when individual flotations attract criticism.

He also recognised that privatisations cannot succeed in a climate of "rampant inflation or widespread labour unrest", but must be accompanied by tax cuts, trade union reforms and abolition of statutory controls.

Speaking at the Adam Smith Institute conference on privatisation, Sir Geoffrey expounded on the emerging democracies in eastern Europe the benefits of a steady, but unwavering, programme of returning nationalised industries to the private sector.

He said: "Since 1970, we can boast having privatised 29 major former state-sector firms, raised funds in excess of £30 billion and transferred around 800,000 jobs from the public to the private sector."

"That represents a reduction of about half in the share of the state's ownership of industry. Whereas the nationalised industries represented

approximately 10 per cent of UK gross domestic product in 1979, today it is 5 per cent."

East European economies face not having sufficient domestic capital to finance the purchase of privatised firms.

But Sir Geoffrey added: "What is equally clear, however, is that only private sector disciplines, supported of course by Western aid in the form of management advice, trading openings and well-targeted cash, can free the economies in question from economic stagnation."

"Private ownership and control offers the only escape route from the Marxist impasse which history has bequeathed them."

If eastern Europe is to repair its economy, the private sector will need to grow from the 3 to 15 per cent, he predicted.

Sir Geoffrey said: "Imagine in Britain what the result would have been if privatisation had been the unique engine of liberalisation without tax cuts, trade union reforms and the abolition of pay, price, profits and capital controls. The result would have been a very partial success indeed."

Opec leaders plan new output cuts

By OUR CITY STAFF

AN OPEC output accord that is being put together by key ministers, for signature at the Geneva talks starting on July 25, would aim to cut production under 22.5 million barrels per day (bpd) in the third quarter, Gulf sources said.

The sources said Saudi Arabia, which is helping to negotiate the deal, hoped output could be below 22.3 million compared with actual volume produced in June of more than 23.1 million.

A key element in the emerging package was agreement by the United Arab Emirates to accept an Opec quota of 1.5 million bpd. If the UAE kept to this, its output would drop by at least 400,000 bpd from the June levels. Until now the UAE had opted out of the Opec quota system.

Kuwait, which has also been overproducing, has now pledged to keep to a quota of 1.5 million bpd. That would imply a cut from its June output of up to 300,000 bpd.

The next step is to work the figures into a formal Opec agreement.

The present ceiling on total volume is 22.086 million bpd including a notional quota for

the UAE of 1.095 million. The problem was addressed by the Gulf Arab states when they met in Jeddah this week.

The Gulf sources said the most straightforward solution would be simply to add the extra volume being formally allocated to the UAE to the existing ceiling, for a new one of about 22.5 million.

But it might be possible to obtain a lower official ceiling since some of the 13 members lack the capacity to produce up to their present quotas.

The sources said that, as the proposals stand now, Saudi Arabia's quota would be kept unchanged at 5.38 million bpd. This would imply a very slight drop in its formally assigned percentage share of the Opec total volume, below the 24.46 per cent that it has hitherto insisted on under any Opec accord.

Gholamreza Azagadeh, the Iranian oil minister, said yesterday that he would want a cut in the Opec ceiling if prices are still weak when Opec gathers in Geneva on July 25.

Mr Azagadeh did say that he thought Kuwait and the UAE would this time around honour their assigned quotas.

Vishay may top TT Group's 85½p a share offer

Rivals step up the fight for Crystalate

By MARTIN BARROW

THE future of Crystalate Holdings, the electronic components group, hung in the balance last night as Vishay Intertechnology, of America, sought boardroom support for a possible 90p-a-share cash offer, worth a total of £28.4 million.

The two sides met this week but the talks took on fresh urgency yesterday after the TT Group, the industrial holding company that started the bid battle in March, tabled a full cash alternative worth 85½p a share.

Crystalate shareholders will also be entitled to retain an interim dividend of 2.2p a share. The terms of a partial cash alternative of five TT shares and £3.60 in cash for every 12 Crystalate shares remain unchanged. The bid has been extended until July 28.

TT put further pressure on the Crystalate board by revealing that it had acquired three million shares, or 9.51 per cent, from funds managed by Schroder Venture Advisers at the cash offer price. TT now claims to speak for 22.12 per



Lord Jenkin: battle still rages

cent of Crystalate, including acceptances in respect of almost nine million shares for its previous offer of cash and shares.

Confirmation that it had acquired another 1.5 million shares in the market yesterday would take its stake to about 25 per cent. Bob Eade, the chief executive of Crystalate, has made it clear

that he would prefer a merger with Vishay, which has had trading links with the British company for several years, to TT, which has no interests in the electronics industry.

However, Lord Jenkin, the chairman, felt unable to recommend Vishay's initial cash offer of 80p a share, or one of its shares for every 14 Crystalate, considering it to be too low. The Americans said yesterday that their offer had received acceptances of 6.13 per cent.

Crystalate and Vishay, whose shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, appear to have been taken by surprise by TT's latest offer, having been confident that the company would not be able to raise the funds for a cash alternative. However, TT said it had arranged a loan facility with Midland Bank.

Crystalate's shares closed at 87p, up 10p, while TT fell 5p to 130p. The company formally confirmed yesterday that a possible third offer had been withdrawn.

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STOCK MARKET

Two brokers cut Sears forecasts

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SEARS, the retailing group which includes Selfridges, Freemans mail order and British Shoe, has become the latest target for analysts' red pens after a downgrading of profit forecasts by at least two leading securities houses. The shares ended 3p cheaper at 95p.

Cazenove, the broker, is believed to have lapped £25 million from its original profits forecast of £195 million. The company's own broker, Warburg Securities, has also cut its estimate for the current year from £180 million to about £160 million. Last year, Sears saw its profits fall from £247 million to £169.2 million.

The downgradings by Cazenove and Warburg comes just 24 hours after Sears announced a shake-up at its British Shoe subsidiary and the resignation of Chris Marsland as the managing director. Brokers say that the two matters are unrelated but their timing is bound to raise a few eyebrows in the City.

Shareholders were warned at the recent annual meeting that trading was flat in both menswear and footwear. Analysts held out little hope for an improvement in profits until interest rates start to fall. Other brokers are now expected to follow Warburg and Cazenove.

But Sears was not the only company to receive a mauling from the analysts. Trafalgar House fell 10p to 274p after a profits downgrade, also by Cazenove. There has been increasing speculation that Trafalgar will have to make substantial write-offs, perhaps of up to £50 million, against its property development programme.

Cazenove has reduced its forecast for the current year from £265 million to £210 million. Rival Warburg is thought to have cut its estimate from £260 million to £195 million. Trafalgar had already been the subject of a number of other downgradings.

Cazenove and Smith New Court have also reduced their estimates for Ultramar, which lost a 6p lead to finish 3p down at 334p.

Hawker Siddeley, which was hit by a Cazenove

downgrading on Thursday, rallied after an early fall to finish unchanged at 548p.

The rest of the equity market opened on a firm note, drawing strength from another record-breaking performance on Wall Street. But there was little follow-through and so prices drifted off. The latest inflation statistics fell short of

double figures and gave share prices the opportunity to stage another rally. Another firm start to trading on Wall Street

enabled prices to close near their best levels. The FT-SE 100 index finished 11.7 higher at 2,382.2. The FT index of 30 shares rose 10.0 to 1,880.1 as prices drifted off. The latest inflation statistics fell short of

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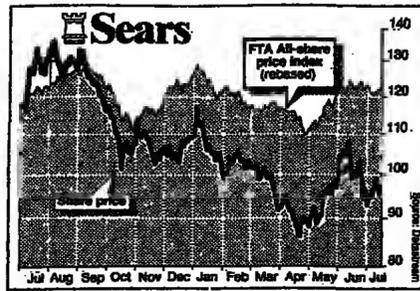
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downgrading on Thursday, rallied after an early fall to finish unchanged at 548p. The rest of the equity market opened on a firm note, drawing strength from another record-breaking performance on Wall Street. But there was little follow-through and so prices drifted off. The latest inflation statistics fell short of

double figures and gave share prices the opportunity to stage another rally. Another firm start to trading on Wall Street

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Virgin Atlantic holds 3% of Dan-Air parent

VIRGIN Atlantic, the airline headed by Richard Branson, has emerged as a 3.35 per cent stakeholder in Davies & Newman, parent company of the troubled independent airline Dan-Air, which announced in May that it was seeking a major trading partner. The shares, worth £1.2 million at yesterday's 51.5p closing price and held through Voyager, part of the Virgin Group, were acquired in September 1987, and have been declared now due to a reduction in the Stock Exchange's disclosure levels from 5 per cent to 3 per cent.

Last month, British Midland Airways, a fellow independent, declared a stake of just over 3 per cent, accumulated over three years. It had acquired no new shares for 12 months. The future of Dan-Air as an independent was called into question after Davies & Newman reported slipping into losses of £3.34 million for the year to December.

Loss is cut at Artisans

CHELSEA Artisans, the maker of marble and glass products, made pre-tax losses down from a restated £159,787 to £61,251 for the year to December. It has written back last year's provision of £280,817 for developer Chromatic coloured glass, used for exterior cladding. Operating profits were £701,350 (£573,921) less a 5p share (0.9p loss). There is again no dividend.

Beer topped up by 12%

MILD weather in May boosted beer production to 3.5 million bulk barrels, a 12 per cent increase on the same month last year. This has helped put froth on the calendar-year production to the end of May, with the first five months of this year showing a 2.1 per cent rise on the same period last year. However, weather in June was dry and a less spectacular rise for that month.

AT Trust chief goes

A NEW refinancing scheme at AT Trust, formerly Astra Trust, involving a £1.8 million rights issue, has meant the departure of the chairman, Theo Paphitis, who moved in to effect a rescue three years ago. The new chairman will be Colin Ulyatt, who is backed by a private company, Energy & Marine Industries.

AT shares have tumbled from a high of 58p last summer to 9p as the group has been brought low by problems associated with its hostile takeover of Splash Products, the T-shirt group, in 1989. The company, which reported pre-tax losses of £484,000 in the six months to last October and write-offs of £1.56 million, has now given warning that second-half losses will probably exceed this, while there will be further provisions in the accounts.

Gold lifted by oil effect

LONDON gold rose by \$12.75 to \$364.50 an ounce in its best one-day spurt in months. It was buoyed by dollar weakness on the back of US Federal Reserve comments about interest rates, and by the rise in world oil prices. Gold has been weak in recent weeks, due to a third wave of Middle East selling and fears of increased sales by the Soviet Union.

Church falls to £6.44m

CHARLES CHURCH, the housebuilder that was taken private last year, has reported interim pre-tax profits of £6.44 million in the six months to February, during which it completed 221 units, exchanging contracts on 127 of them. For the year as a whole, the company expects to sell about 480 units, a 35 per cent reduction on the previous year.

Fibre firms in merger

COURTAULDS and Montefibre, a subsidiary of Enimont of Italy, have agreed to merge their acrylic fibre businesses in a majority share in the new company, which combines Montefibre's acrylics in Mirafiora de Eloro and Courtaulds' business in Barcelona.

In a statement, Courtaulds said that the two companies had signed a letter of intent and talks would now take place to confirm details of the transaction. It said the merged operation would have 13 per cent of the total acrylic fibre capacity in Western Europe.

Danbury Group slips to £1m loss

Regulators accuse Bush's son of negligence over thrift loss

Washington AS A director of the Silverado Banking, Savings & Loan Association in Denver, Neil Bush, one of President George Bush's three sons, voted to approve loans for a close business associate that caused a loss to the government of at least \$45 million, according to documents released by federal regulators.

The documents outline charges that Mr Bush violated conflict-of-interest rules by failing to properly disclose his relationship with Bill Walters, a Denver developer, and by not abstaining from voting on more than \$100 million in loans to him. Regulators say that Silverado lost almost half of its investments with Mr Walters.

The regulators are close to bringing a \$200 million negligence lawsuit against Mr Bush and other Silverado officers and directors. They made the 1,000 pages of documents, which also outline charges against other Silverado officials, available this week.

The propriety of Mr Bush's votes on loans to Mr Walters and actions on behalf of another business partner, Kenneth Good, have become subjects of a continuing dispute between the president's son and regulators.

The regulators say there was little, if any, opposition from other Silverado board members to the Walters loans. However, they contend that Mr Bush's actions on behalf of Mr Walters might have sent misleading signals to other directors.

They argue that his contribution to the board's deliberations may have been taken as an approval of Mr Walters based on special, "inside" information that only a business partner would know.

Mr Bush's failure to fully disclose his business relationships with the two investors, as well as providing advice about their financial condition, constituted unsafe and unsound banking practices and a breach of his fiduciary duties.

The Office of Thrift Supervision is seeking to stop him from repeating such actions if in the future he is an officer of a bank or savings association.

The company policy against conflicts of interest, according to documents released by savings regulators, gave warning against not only any direct conflicts of interest but also against even the appearance of conflicts.

A hearing on the charges being brought by regulators is scheduled for September 25 in Denver.

Mr Thornburgh said on Wednesday that he saw no need for an independent prosecutor.

(New York Times)

Government securities were encouraged by the inflation news and closed with gains of about 2 1/2.

Carlton Communications, the film and video services group, tumbled 45p to 455p after another broker's downgrading. Kleinwort Benson was a seller of the shares on Monday and any remaining support has dried up. Video sales are believed to be falling.

Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, fell 16p to 593p with James Capel, the broker, continuing to be cautious on the prospects for Retrovir, its anti-Aids drug. An Aids conference in Cambridge this week came out against treating those in the early stages of the disease with the drug. Capel says that it still dissects with various optimistic forecasts.

Capel is keeping to its estimate of £420 million for the current year and believes that the recent underperformance by the share price indicates that the euphoria which surrounded Retrovir has evaporated.

GEC firmed 4p to 200p as James Capel took a party of fund managers to France to

visit its Alstom business which supplies railway equipment. GEC met some institutions this week and the host was Henderson Crosswhite, the broker.

The property sector came in for a hammering as John Atkins, an analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, joined the bears. With Warburg having modestly downgraded its net asset value forecasts this week, Mr Atkins's caution hit a raw nerve and undermined the prices of all the big companies.

Mr Atkins believes that while property yields have been rising, they still have some way to go before they accurately reflect what he sees as a dismal outlook. But even more worryingly, he says, is the impact that the huge amount of space under construction will have on rents. Office rents in the City, for example, could fall by 20 per cent in the next 18 months, he says.

Rosehaugh, the property developer, was a weak performer, falling 17p to 183p on whispers that the company is about to issue a profits warning. A spokesman said the reports were unfounded.

In addition, the regulators say that Mr Bush appears not to have abided by an agreement between him and the former chairman of Silverado that Mr Bush would excuse himself from any business with either Mr Walters or Mr Good.

In a letter dated July 15, 1985, Michael Wise, Silverado's then chairman, former shareholders that Mr Bush would serve on the Silverado board but, he added, "Neil has agreed to abstain from any board considerations regarding Silverado's relations with Mr Walters or Mr Good."

Mr Bush, who has insisted that he has done nothing wrong and has refused to negotiate an out-of-court settlement with the regulators, denied this week that he knew about or had agreed to a ban on his voting on loans to Mr Walters.

Republican party strategists are worried that Mr Bush's insistence on fighting the case could prove politically damaging to the president.

Mr Walters and Mr Good were investors in Mr Bush's oil exploration company, JNB Exploration.

Federal savings regulators say that Mr Bush's failure to fully disclose his business relationships with the two investors, as well as providing advice about their financial condition, constituted unsafe and unsound banking practices and a breach of his fiduciary duties.

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The company policy against conflicts of interest, according to documents released by savings regulators, gave warning against not only any direct conflicts of interest but also against even the appearance of conflicts.

WALL STREET Strong bonds help Dow to make early advance

New York AN OPENING blue-chip rally lost some of its momentum, but share prices generally remained firm in morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was up by 5.94 to 2,975.74. Shares were supported by a strong bond market and a steady dollar.

Some profit-taking after Thursday's rally tempered the rise. Jeff Kaminsky, the director of institutional sales at Mazon Nugent and Co, said: "The market is just taking a rest." Share prices advanced sharply on Thursday as hopes that interest rates will ease.

● Tokyo - The Nikkei index was up 69.05 points, or 0.21 per cent, to 32,644.37. Shares closed firmer on subdued optimism about a stronger yen

and the possibility that American credit is about to ease.

Though the gains were modest, the Nikkei closed higher for the third consecutive day and advanced by nearly 200 points for the week.

● Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index closed 38.57 higher at 3,507.16 and the broader-based Hong Kong index surged 27.42 to 2,306.51. Prices ended sharply higher on buying after the Hang Seng breached 3,500 at midday.

● Singapore - Sharp gains in index-component shares pushed up the Straits Times industrial index by 31.47 to 1,564.40. Prices closed at the day's highs, rising sharply across the board on heavy demand by institutions and individuals.

(Reuters)

ALPH A STOCKS

Table with columns for stock names and prices. Includes ABBOTT LAB, ADIDAS, ALCOHOLIC, etc.

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Argument over enquiry call

WASHINGTON A DEMOCRATIC attempt to force the Justice Department to begin the process that could lead to appointing an independent prosecutor in the Neil Bush case has been denounced by Republicans.

Both sides have recently escalated the political battle over the savings and loan debacle.

Republicans say the move is sheer hypocrisy. They say that if such an investigation is held several Democrats should also be subject to a criminal enquiry, especially the four senators who intervened to help Charles Keating, the former head of the failed Lincoln

Savings and Loan Association.

Eleven Democratic members of the House of Representatives. Judiciary committee have sent a letter to the attorney general, Dick Thornburgh, which makes the claim that the Silverado case "has criminal implications that should be aggressively investigated."

In addition, the letter raises serious questions about the department's ability to conduct a "fair and vigorous investigation."

It points out that Michael Norton, the US attorney in Denver likely to head any criminal prosecution, had ac-

cepted a campaign contribution in 1986 from Larry Mizel, an executive who held millions of dollars in Silverado high-yield, high-risk bonds and preferred stock.

Mr Norton has declined to discuss the contribution.

The Democrats' letter recommends making several people subjects of a criminal inquiry. In addition to Neil Bush and Mizel, they included Kenneth Good and William Walters, who were business partners of Mr Bush.

Mr Thornburgh said on Wednesday that he saw no need for an independent prosecutor.

(New York Times)

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major stock price changes. Includes GIBBS & DANDY, MICRO FOCUS, etc.

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RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues. Includes ABSTRACT NEW EURO, ADIDAS, etc.

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WORLD MARKET INDICES

Table of world market indices. Includes THE WTRIC, EUROPE, Nth America, etc.

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table of London traded options. Includes columns for stock names, call/put prices, and dates.

مركز الاموال

Atlantic holds Dan-Air parent... Beer topped up by 12%... Just chief goes... Church falls to 6.44m... Firms in merge...

Danbury Group slips to £1m loss

By PHILIP PANGALOS DANBURY GROUP, the East Anglian property developer, which joined the USM last summer, slid into the red after a £2.3 million exceptional write-down on certain development sites and residential building works.

Sound Diffusion investors still fight for payout

By MARTIN BARROW SHAREHOLDERS of Sound Diffusion are still fighting for compensation more than 18 months after the electronic equipment leasing company's collapse.

Ridley's sell-by date does not sour the market's Major link

I wonder whether Nicholas Ridley has done serious damage to the revived equity market, which has responded so well to the skilled and patient nursing of his cabinet colleague, the Chancellor of the Exchequer? It is this, crudely, a time to sell?



KENNETH FLEET

Pathé sues Time Warner in MGM merger battle

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES PATHÉ Communications Corporation, the Hollywood film production studio, has launched a \$500 million lawsuit against Time Warner, a former prospective business partner and the entertainment industry's largest company.

Finding a defensive stock in GEC

I f you are worried about the economic outlook but do not want to be out of the market completely, then a defensive stock is for you. They come in many guises, but the mighty GEC, which offers a good yield, a cash-lined balance sheet and a sporting chance of being re-rated.



Parretti: talks at impasse studio, by October 23. Until Pathé announced almost a month ago that discussions had reached an impasse, Time Warner was to have given Pathé a loan for more than half the purchase price.

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for 1990 High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, Change, Div, Yld, P/E

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Exchange rates table for Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, and Dollar Spot Rates

MONEY MARKETS

Money markets table including Euro Money Deposits, Bullion, Gold, and Treasury Bills

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Investment trusts table with columns for 1990 High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, Change, Div, Yld, P/E

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

London financial futures table for FT-SE 100, US Treasury Bond, Japanese Govt Bond, etc.

COMMODITIES

Commodities table for LONDON OIL REPORTS, LONDON FOX, LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares edge higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 9. Dealings end July 20. Contango day July 23. Settlement day July 30. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 42).

Portfolio PLATINUM From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches the figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Weekly Dividend Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

Yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won by Joseph Gordon, of Brighton, East Sussex.

BRITISH FUNDS High Low Stock Price Chgs % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years) 88% 84% 80% 76% 72% 68%

FIVE TO FIFTY YEARS 100% 95% 90% 85% 80% 75%

OVER FIFTY YEARS 100% 95% 90% 85% 80% 75%

UNDATED 25% 20% 15% 10% 5%

INDEX-LINKED 11% 10% 9% 8% 7% 6%

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP 1980 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

ELECTRICALS 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

DRAPERY, STORES 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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LEISURE 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

Mining 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

L-R 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

S-Z 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

FINANCE, LAND 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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OILS, GAS 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

WATER 1989 High Low Company Price Chgs % P/E

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n DPR Bankers insist on Ferranti cash call merger

Gillian Bowditch with a timely warning for consumers

The saletime plays that stores use to seduce the shopper

TWICE a year the British public part with millions of pounds in one of the cleverest and most successful marketing plays ever invented, the end of season sales.

Retailers, keeping one step ahead of their sophisticated customers, dream up ever more imaginative schemes to encourage the public to spend. Special offers and apparent bargains entice consumers into shops plastered with red stickers.

Harrods sells twice as much each day during the summer sale as it does on a normal day's trading. In three weeks during its January sale in 1986 it took £38.6 million, a record taken during a sale, and in one day in 1987 it took £7 million.

sale. For example the ticket on a dress should say "Sale price £79.99. Our normal price £39.99" rather than simply "reduced to £29.99".

The previous price should be the last price at which the product was available to the consumer in the last six months and the product should have been available to consumers at that price for at least 28 consecutive days in the previous six months in the same shop where the reduced price is on offer.

If the previous price in a comparison does not conform to the timescale there should be a clear explanation why and of the circumstances in which the higher price applied.

It is up to local authority trading standards departments to ensure that retailers comply with the legislation. They follow up complaints from consumers and enforce the Consumer Protection Act.

Harrods is not alone. Marks and Spencer says its biannual sale does not include bought-in lines. It is simply a way of clearing out old stock to make way for the new seasons goods.



Dream machine: shops plastered with red stickers and bargain offers can double normal daily turnover during the summer and winter sales

metics supplier is changing the packaging on a brand Harrods may buy in the product with the old packaging and sell it at a reduced price.

Under the Sale of Goods Act 1979, the seller has three main duties. He must ensure that the goods are of "merchantable quality", which means that they must be reasonably fit for their normal purpose bearing in mind the price paid, the nature of the goods and how they were described.

This means that a new pair of shoes should not fall to bits after a couple of weeks of normal wear. Even if the goods are very cheap, secondhand, or labelled sale items they must still be of merchantable quality.

There is no claim under the Sale of Goods Act if something is purchased with a fault that has already been pointed out or where the fault was so obvious it could not have been missed when sold.

And a refund is not claimable if the seller's advice as to the suitability of the product has been ignored, or if the goods have been received as a present. Any claim made must be made by the buyer.

If the wrong item has been chosen, because it is the wrong size, colour or simply that it is not liked, it is the customer's

mistake. But many shops are prepared to exchange or refund goods provided they are in perfect condition as a gesture of goodwill.

How one pays for goods also affects one's rights, and in some cases can strengthen them. If bought by credit card and something goes wrong under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 a claim can be made against the credit card company if the retailer does not respond.

The cover applies if the purchase is over £100. This is particularly useful if the retailer has gone bust. Consumer rights are also stronger under hire purchase. The goods may be "rejected" throughout the time the agreement is running. Once all the payments have been made one's rights become the same as if done in one go.

attempting to lure shoppers to buy dubious bargains. Mr Corfield urges shoppers to keep their heads in the sales. "Shop around and check out prices to see if the sale item really is a bargain and think before you buy," he says.

The importance of sales to retailers is immense, David Jeay of Price Waterhouse's retail consultancy says. "The marketing aspect of sales should not be underestimated particularly during the post-Christmas sale."

After Christmas, retailers' stock levels are running at their highest. Many have stock they have to get rid of and they are appealing to consumers to have one last splurge before tightening their belts during February, traditionally a lean time for retailers.

Rights and wrongs about returning goods

The Office of Fair Trading and the Consumers Association advise consumers to follow certain guidelines if they have a complaint about goods.

Items should be examined as soon as possible after purchase. Once they have been legally "accepted" the right to refuse goods that are faulty is lost. This means the customer cannot claim a refund but only damages, normally the difference between purchase price and the value of the goods in their faulty condition.

Goods are deemed to have been "accepted" when kept beyond a reasonable time. There is no fixed

period, it depends on the goods and the circumstances. The Consumers Association advises people to take things back within two weeks of purchase. If a fault is spotted straight away the goods may be rejected and the purchase price returned. The offer of repairs or a credit note need not be accepted.

A credit note permits the purchase of goods to the same value from the same shop. If accepted, customers will not normally be able to exchange it for cash later on. And they are sometimes valid for only a limited period of time.

If entitlement to a refund of the full price of faulty goods has been lost after "acceptance", that is too much time has elapsed since purchase, it may make sense to accept a repair or a new replacement. If a repair is in order, it should be made clear that it is being done without prejudice to one's rights under the Sale of Goods Act, which means a claim can be made from the shop if the repair does not work. If the goods cannot be repaired and are therefore worthless, customers are entitled to nearly all their money back.

If a replacement is accepted that turns out to be faulty and rights under the Sale of Goods Act have been reserved, the item may be rejected and a refund obtained. If there is a guarantee it may be best to use it to have faulty goods repaired. A guarantee is always in addition to the customer's legal rights, not instead of, but it can be the easiest way to have goods repaired if held too long for a refund. Legal rights are not affected even if the guarantee has expired.

Customers should decide beforehand what they are entitled to and whether a repair, an exchange or a refund is required. Do not be fobbed off and, if necessary, see the manager.

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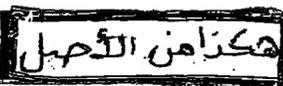
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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with multiple columns listing various unit-linked insurance investments, including company names, fund names, and performance metrics.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'Yes, more money' and 'An income growth' with a background image of a person.

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading



Yes, we will take your money — but at a price

By BARBARA ELLIS

AS THE Arthur Scargill enquiry has demonstrated, opening a foreign bank account has never been easier, with Britain's tax and banking authorities having total disinterest in the international homes citizens choose for their cash.

But certain types of secret surveillance are being stepped up and mere suspicion can lead to investigations involving the police and possibly the freezing of an account.

At the Bank of England, a spokesman said a Briton opening an account with a foreign bank would fall outside its reporting system.

But all European banks are now under a similar obligation to British and American banks to report any "suspicious" transaction to the police, in case it relates to drug money.

In Britain, a working party consisting of banks and building societies is trying to establish guidelines on what constitutes a suspicious transaction. It is unwilling to copy the American practice of requiring automatic reports on every transaction over \$10,000, feeling that smaller transfers could be just as illicit.

Banks in Britain are legally obliged to report payments of interest of £500 and above to the Inland Revenue, but banks abroad are not.

However, a spokesman pointed out that if the Inland Revenue suspected anyone of receiving income from abroad without declaring it, there were routes it could use to obtain information.

The European Mutual Assistance Directive made it possible for the Revenue to call on foreign authorities for help, he explained.

Despite the hidden perils, there is a steady stream of British applicants for foreign accounts, particularly via the London offices of European banks. Many now keep a stack of application forms handy and are well rehearsed on the different conditions that apply in their own countries.

Société Générale currently receives about 50 calls a week from people wanting to open accounts in France, and asks all applicants to supply a signature verified by their own bank along with a bank letter of reference. No interest is paid on current accounts in France and cheque guarantee cards are not issued; shopkeepers often ask to see identity cards or passports instead.



Chequebooks available — with a DM4,000 deposit: Deutsche Bank in Bishopsgate

A Société Générale spokeswoman said that the bank did not make any charge for ordinary transactions such as cheques or withdrawals, but that each branch manager has discretion to require a minimum deposit ranging from £100 to £1,000. However, she said it was very rare for a manager to ask for £1,000.

A danger peculiar to France is that non-residents may find their accounts closed if they are left inactive for a long time, even with positive balances of £200. "They can get the money back, but if you have an account in France it is best to keep using it," the spokeswoman said.

Another French hazard is that unauthorized overdrafts are illegal and could land unsuspecting Britons on a Banque de France blacklist that would bar them from holding an account in France.

For accounts in Spain, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya asks applicants for a photocopy of their passport with a signature authentication by a British bank, but does not need a letter of reference.

Because of Spanish exchange control regulations, the bank offers non-residents accounts in either convertible

pesetas or ordinary pesetas. Convertible pesetas can only be created from funds transferred from outside Spain and can be sent abroad, but ordinary pesetas must stay within the country.

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya does not require a minimum deposit for current accounts. It charges a maintenance commission, at each branch manager's discretion.

Barclays has 210 branches in Spain and its British branches will help open accounts there though they do not routinely keep application forms available. For a current account Barclays in Spain would look for a balance of £1,700. Below that, it would charge £12 every six months plus 60p per transaction.

At Monte dei Paschi di Siena, a bank with 550 branches around Italy, a spokesman said that a passport would be considered sufficient documentation for someone wanting to open an account.

He added that no minimum deposit is needed for a current account, and that interest would be paid, depending on the market. Fees would be charged for each transaction, but these would depend on the

branch. Deutsche Bank also asks only for a valid passport from applicants for accounts in Germany. But obtaining a cheque book will be initially costly for a non-resident.

Because most German banks now issue Eurocheques rather than individual bank cheques, they will insist that new account-holders deposit DM4,000 in a blocked savings account, paying interest at a rate of about 3½ per cent, since this is the amount the bank will be guaranteeing by handing out a Eurocheque book.

Interest of about 0.5 per cent is paid on current accounts and charges vary from bank to bank. Deutsche Bank has just introduced two different scales of maintenance fee, one with a set charge of DM7.50 per quarter and another charging for every transaction.

People who do not feel like tying up over £1,000 simply to get Eurocheques could open an account accessed by Deutsche Bank's own ATM card, but usable only within Germany. This would enable them to make payments by transfer orders, which are much more commonly used than cheques in Germany.

Premiums rise as tax slices into insurance profits cake

By PAUL NUKI

INSURANCE policyholders are facing the prospect of higher premiums because insurance companies are not doing enough business to cover their costs.

City analysts are predicting that the life insurance industry's running costs may rise even higher because of a slump in new business. If correct, policyholders will have no option but to pick up the bill.

New business figures for the first quarter of 1990 were described by the Association of British Insurers as "satisfactory". But according to reports from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the life industry's new business prospects for the 1990's are "far from encouraging".

The introduction of mortgage tax relief at source (Miras) and personal pensions during the 1980's created a boom for insurers, but the 1990's will be marred by lower business levels and a period of consolidation, it says.

Alan Curtis, who compiled the report, predicts that the downturn will start to show in sales figures due out soon for the first half of 1990. Insurers have "all but exhausted" the new business potential in the government's campaign to privatise pensions, and sales will slide by up to 20 per cent.

he says. Faced with a weak housing market, insurers would not be able to fall back on their traditional source of new regular premium business, mortgage endowment policies, to make up the shortfall. Even if the mortgage market picks up, other more tax efficient products, like personal equity plans, threaten to steal a sizeable chunk of the traditional endowment market.

But such a bleak outlook is not just bad news for the insurers. It is bad for investors because, without a healthy inflow of new premiums, insurers' expenses will rise relative to profits, pushing up charges on unit-linked contracts and reducing bonuses on with-profit policies.

Although Mr Curtis points out that it would take about two to three years for the impact of these changes to filter down to policyholders, and that they would not affect all companies, there are a series of inflationary pressures working their way through the system.

The BZW reports says: "During the recent new business bonanza, policyholders have scrambled to pay up to 50 per cent more in initial expenses to buy a life or pensions policy." This is mainly because

Nobody's buying We'll have to up the price.



insurers are paying much larger commissions to financial advisers than they used to, but changes made this year to the system of life office taxation are also taking their toll on premium rates. For example, Allied Dunbar recently announced that it would be increasing premiums on some products by as much as 20 per cent because of the impact of higher taxes.

Stephen Dias, a life assurance analyst with Goldman Sachs, is more optimistic. While he concedes that expenses will rise if sales become stagnant, he says insurers are only too aware that higher premiums may put off even more buyers.

This view is backed by Roy Brimblecombe, Eagle Star's chief actuary, who recently stepped down as chairman of the ABI's life insurance council. He said: "The effect of expenses on policy returns pales into insignificance compared with the investment return you can give. If you can get just a half per cent more out of your investment managers, it outweighs any increase in costs for most companies."

But Mr Curtis argues that with-profit offices are already under pressure to cut bonuses. "The position, I think, is going to get worse. We would need a pretty strong bull market just to keep reversionary bonuses at current levels," he said.

Mr Dias said investors should even consider taking out policies with smaller companies which might not survive a slump in new business. "Where offices have closed life funds in the past, the remaining policyholders have had a bonanza," he said.

But for the more cautious investor who cannot afford to gamble, the City scribblers are still recommending the big names.

One analyst said: "You must be looking at reasonably sized companies which are well run and have reserves enough to find and fund new business. Then, investment performance is most important."

River flows towards small firms

By JON ASHWORTH

RIVER & Mercantile today launches an investment trust to focus on smaller companies in Britain and abroad. The trust is tailored towards capital growth, but investors can anticipate an initial gross dividend yield of 5 per cent and a growing level of income.

The portfolio will initially include at least 100 British and 20 foreign smaller companies. For every five ordinary shares, subscribed shareholders will receive one warrant, giving the right to subscribe for an additional share at 100p in each year up to, and including, 1996. The shares and warrants may be included in a personal equity plan.

The LAS Group has unveiled a unit trust which aims to provide investors with high income and high security. The fund will invest in higher-yielding blue-chip shares and the group is predicting an annualised gross yield at launch of 14.8 per cent, with net income reinvested. This would equate to 11.1 per cent net of basic rate tax. The minimum investment is £2,500, and there is a 2.01 per cent bid offer spread.

Yorkshire building society has raised the rate of interest for larger investments in Offshore Key, its offshore account. A

rate of 15.8 per cent is offered on amounts between £50,000 and £1 million, while 15.5 per cent is paid on amounts between £25,000 and £49,999. Rates of interest on smaller amounts are: 14.5 per cent up to £14,999, and 15 per cent between £15,000 and £24,999. Funds may be withdrawn without penalty with 90 days notice.

Birmingham Midshires building society has added a gross interest facility to its Magnum Savings Account. The account pays interest gross on £100, and up to £500 may be withdrawn without notice. On larger amounts, seven days notice is required. The rate of interest varies from 10.67 per cent gross on £100 to 14.33 per cent on £25,000. The first interest payment is due on June 30, 1991.

Whittingdale, the City gilts specialists, has launched an instant access fund which pays an initial annual income of 15.2 per cent. The City Reserve Fund, to be launched on Monday, is a money-market fund aimed at companies and private investors. There is no initial charge, but there is an annual charge of 0.5 per cent. The minimum investment is £10,000.

Exeter fund managers is relaunching the Exeter High Income unit trust on

Monday, with a 1 per cent discount for new investors. The fund was founded two years ago and has a current gross yield of 12.5 per cent.

Prolific financial management has launched an income plan called Concepts, which combines several investment options in one package. Part of the money invested is used to buy an annuity which provides investors with a guaranteed monthly income. By purchasing the annuity in the name of a non-taxpayer, income can be paid gross. The balance is invested in a choice of nine equity trusts and peeps tailored for capital growth.

Many customers of Firstdirect are paying bills by telephone, ending the need to send cheques by post or pay them over the counter. The service can be set up to pay regular household bills and is more flexible than standing orders or direct debits. Credit card bills can be settled with a phone call each month.

The Household Mortgage Corporation has launched a new valuation service to improve and simplify valuations for customers, introducers and lenders. The service should be able to provide valuations in as little as two days and should ensure accurate appraisals.

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Monthly Income Fund*	£326	£2041	£1543
Building Society Ordinary Account Interest/Income reinvested	NIL	£1325	£1002
Building Society Ordinary Account Interest/Income withdrawn	£286	£1000	£756

Results of £1000 invested. *Taxation rules, after tax, figures from 1.A.85 to 1.A.90. **Tax deducted of basic rate. All unit trust performance and building society account figures supplied by MOROPAL. Inflation measured by reference to the retail price index.

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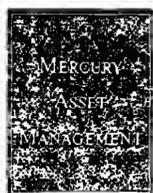
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Pepping up personal income without tax

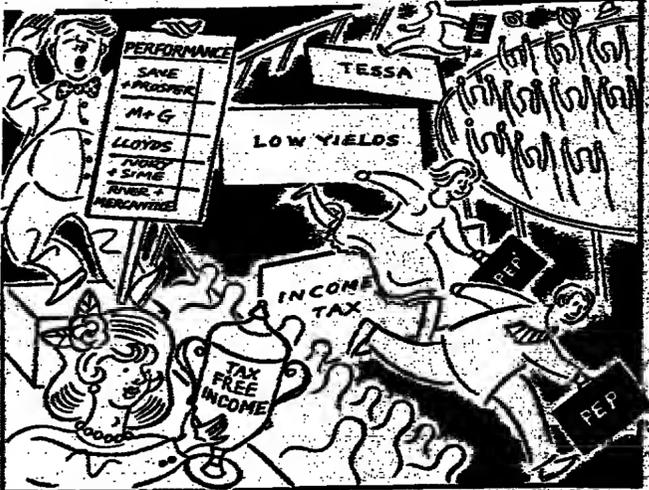
Helen Pridham on the benefits of personal equity plans (peps) if it is possible to obtain a completely tax-free income. Most investors have viewed peps as a way of building up capital, but an increasing number of pep managers are offering an income option.

The starting yield on an income unit trust after tax is likely to be about 5 per cent, or less, compared with interest rates of 11 per cent or more net offered by building societies. But by using a pep this gap can be narrowed. Gross yields of more than 8 per cent can be obtained on income unit trusts through a pep and prospects for growth are good.

Even when Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessas), the tax-free bank and building society investment schemes, are introduced, peps will be at an advantage. Although it will be possible to withdraw income from a Tessa, only the net amount will be available until the completion of the five-year plan.

Even if an immediate income is not required, an income-oriented pep can make sense. On request, the income can be reinvested until needed. Besides compounding the gross income, adding to the value of the plan, by the time the income is required the yield should have grown.

Save & Prosper estimated that if an investor could have made an annual contribution of £3,000 for five years to a S&P's high return unit trust, it would have produced an income in the past 12 months equivalent to 10.2 per cent on



the amount invested. The capital invested would have grown from £15,000 to nearly £24,000 by the April. An income-type pep is a particularly good investment for those near to retirement.

If a future Labour government puts up income tax the value of a tax-free income from a pep will be enhanced further. The Labour Party has said it will not tax away the benefits of existing plans.

Not all pep managers offer an income option. But now that no minimum investment period is stipulated with a pep and the maximum that can be invested has been increased to £5,000, of which up to £3,000 can go into investment or unit trusts, arranging an income facility has become easier.

The highest yields are available from peps investing in split-capital investment trusts. River & Mercantile offers the choice of a pep investing in the ordinary shares of River &

Mercantile Extra Income, which currently yields 9.3 per cent, or in the income shares of River & Mercantile Trust, paying 10.4 per cent. But investors need to be aware that the latter is trading at the moment at a premium that would mean a capital loss when the fund winds up in the year 2000.

At Ivory & Sime, pep investors can choose between the ordinary shares of Optim Income, paying 9.3 per cent, or the conventional shares of Investors Capital and British Assets, which yield 6.8 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively. Each of the trusts pays income quarterly and there are plans to launch a monthly income pep.

Statistics produced by Ivory & Sime show that if £3,000 could have been invested in a British Assets pep at the beginning of 1980, the annual income would have grown from £203.75 to £707.15 free of tax in 1989.

Bridget Clewley, of Ivory & Sime, explained how the income on a pep is paid. The first payment is made net of tax, but after that, each time the investor receives an income payment he will receive the tax reclaimed on the previous payment. Until the tax credit is paid out it will be on deposit earning interest.

Income unit trusts have long had a reputation for paying capital growth as well as income growth, though not all have managed both with equal success. Among the companies that have done well on both counts is M&G, which is in the process of introducing an income facility on its pep. This links to three of its income unit trusts: M&G Dividend, M&G Extra Yield, and M&G Midland, all of which have increased their income faster than inflation and outperformed the FTSE All Share Index in capital growth terms over the past three years.

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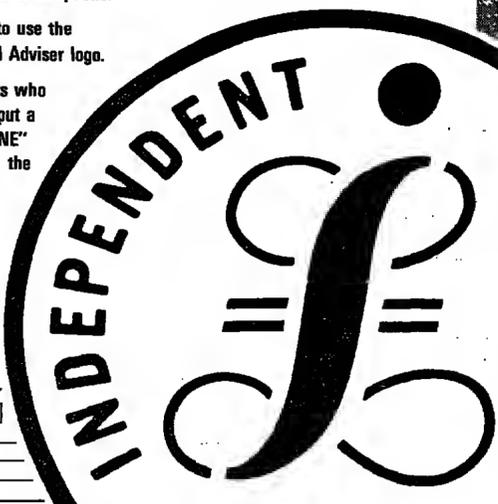
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Lack of performance guide hinders choice

IT IS generally agreed nowadays that for anyone who wants to put money into the stock market the first avenue should be through a personal equity plan (writes Helen Pridham).

This way all investment income and capital gains are free of tax. But the second step is not so easy. How to choose from about 400 Pep managers? One criterion is charges. These can vary considerably and are therefore difficult to compare.

John Spiers of *Best Investment*, the investors magazine, which earlier this year produced a league table of peps with the highest expenses, now believes it is wrong to focus too much attention on this aspect.

"The difference in pep charges is actually not very great. Differences in performance are far more important and can soon outweigh any variation in charges."

If you are investing in a unit trust pep or an investment trust-only pep, comparing past performance is not difficult thanks to the abundance of statistics. Though these usually show returns after tax rather than the gross amounts from a pep, the consistency and relative abilities of different managers can be assessed.

Only £3,000 can go into a unit trust or investment trust pep. The balance of the full £6,000 non-taxable investment must go into individual shares. This route is preferable for those who like the idea of

owning specific shares rather than investing in a more anonymous pooled fund.

Although some peps allow people to select their own shares, most tend to opt for a managed plan where the choice of shares and running of the portfolio is in the hands of managers. Typically, between six and twelve shares are included in this type.

But the performance of managed peps tends to be much more difficult to com-

'Differences in performance can soon outweigh any variation in charges'

pare. So far little has been done to independently monitor their progress.

Chris Poll of Micropal, one of the producers of performance figures, said: "We've been considering the introduction of pep performance figures for over a year now."

There are various practical difficulties such as the fact that each investor tends to get a slightly different combination of shares. But this could be overcome by the managers nominating one pep starting on a particular date and telling us of any changes.

"Then there are the problems of valuing the individual shares in the portfolio, since there are no published unit

prices, and taking all the different charges into account. It would be very labour intensive."

But these difficulties could be overcome with the co-operation of the pep managers, he said.

The only independent monitoring of performance that currently takes place is done by the *WM Company* on behalf of the *Daily Telegraph*, but just 11 companies participate out of about 400.

Geoff Bailey, of Lloyds Bank, one of the largest pep providers with about £250 million under management, admits performance tables are useful when managers are doing well but not much fun when they are at the bottom.

"Many managers must think it's not worth the risk so they do not participate," he said.

Lacking comprehensive performance figures, most financial advisers use the company's other managed funds as their main guide. *Best Investment* is about to publish a review of the top performing unit and investment trusts available within a pep, with information on whether the same investment manager of those funds is also running the individual share portfolio of the managed pep too.

Mr Spiers said: "I would definitely recommend investors to go for a pep that includes a managed fund with an identifiable track record. Without it you don't know what you're getting into."

Glamour blinds self-selectors

INVESTORS who pit their share selection skills against personal equity plan (pep) managers have achieved mixed results. Many have chosen the glamour stocks of 1987 and 1988 and have since come to grief (writes Lindsay Cook).

At Save & Prosper the champion of the self-select peps has chosen only one share, Polly Peck, and now has a plan worth more than £40,000. He started with the maximum investment of £2,400 in 1987 and has invested the maximum allowed each year since, giving a total investment of £19,200.

At the other end of the scale is a woman who made good profits with her own portfolio when she started to select her own shares for a plan. She has invested a total of £11,561.56 in plans over the past two years which are now worth £9,030.

She says: "The income is derisory and to a considerable

extent wiped out by management charges."

Among the shares is a holding in British & Commonwealth which she expects to be a complete write-off. Tottenham Hintspar, bought because Tony Berry had a large stake, subsequently fell 15p. Lopes, bought at 248p, fell by 80p over the next 12 months. Clogau Gold Mines, now Ferromet, has turned £1,083 into £187.

She also put £3,000 of her daughter's money into Saatchi & Saatchi, which then fell to £856. The only success in her plan was Polly Peck.

At Save & Prosper, Richard Moseley, sales and marketing support manager, said that most of its self-select plan holders were active investors who knew what they wanted. The company has decided to limit the choice of shares available to investors to alpha stocks.

"We found that when the whole market was open people

invested in local companies of which they had local knowledge. Many of these are dodgy markets now. There are also quite a few B&C investors. But that is the nature of this sort of investor. They will take a punt. Many use peps as a bit of fun."

Other shares to feature strongly in pep portfolios are Guinness, Marks and Spencer, Tesco, and Sainsbury.

Save & Prosper makes a 1.5 per cent initial charge for its self-select plan. In addition there is a £25 charge plus VAT for each separate shareholding. The company recommends investors have a maximum of two shares in their plans.

At National Westminster Bank 60 to 70 per cent of peps are invested in alpha stocks. The most successful plans are, however, in beta and gamma stocks. The bank charges £25 to set up a plan, an annual fee of 1 per cent and a dealing fee of 1.5 per cent.

مكرامن التاجيل

WEEKEND MONEY

Europe is Pearl's growth oyster

PEARL Unit Trusts is launching a European fund for investors seeking steady growth in the longer term (writes Jon Ashworth).

Savers looking for a repeat of the heavy gains which have been available from European funds may find themselves disappointed, but Pearl is confident that the growth rate will pick up as 1992 approaches.

Edward Heath, speaking at the fund's launch this week, said it showed that 1992 was not only approaching rapidly but also posing a major challenge to investors. The former prime minister said investment would also play a key role in the re-development of East European countries. Mr Heath said that long-term investment would be essential to the growth and well-being of these economies.

Paul Woolf, the fund manager, said growth is likely to be below that of Japan but ahead of Britain and America. He said new opportunities will arise in the run-up to 1992, making this as good a time as any to invest in a European fund.



Heath: the challenge of 1992

Not surprisingly, Germany has been singled out for its investment potential. The fund will invest up to a third of its assets in the newly-united country.

Germany is the favoured market since its manufacturers stand to gain orders from Eastern Europe. France will ac-

count for 18 per cent. Spain, Holland and Switzerland are likely to account for 10 per cent each, and Italy and Britain 5 per cent each.

The minimum investment in the new trust is £1,000, although as an incentive to smaller investors, as little as £500 may be invested until August 3. There is an initial charge of 6 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent.

Savers investing £50,000 or more during the launch period will pay only 4 per cent as an initial charge, and discounts of between 1.5 per cent and 0.5 per cent are offered on £2,500 or more.

Potential investors may look in the example of Save & Prosper's European Smaller Companies fund, which like the New Europe trust favours investment in Germany and France. Since its launch in January, the fund has attracted over £70 million from nearly 17,000 investors.

Later this month Scottish Mutual is launching a bond which will invest in the group's European life fund. It promises good growth with limited risk, and is open to investments of at least £2,500.

Globe holders attract sudden host of admirers

By JON ASHWORTH

SMALL shareholders in the Globe Investment Trust have been offered a range of alternative investments by financial institutions after the successful bid by the British Coal pension funds.

Legal & General was first off the mark by offering Globe investors 207p per share, provided they invest the proceeds in L&G's Equity Trust. The offer is an improvement on the market price, and is in dividend form to allow shareholders who accept to receive the 4p final dividend from Globe.

The scheme is an attractive one, but the 37,000 private shareholders should weigh up the odds carefully. The Coal funds offer three investment routes. Schroder unit trusts and Gartmore fund managers have come up with offers of their own, and more offers are likely to be made in the coming days.

Shareholders accepting the Coal fund offer will lose the right to receive the final 4p dividend. They will either be paid in cash at 205p per share,

have their holdings invested in loan notes, or reinvest in a new investment trust which will aim to match the FTA All-Share Index.

L&G says its offer is an improvement, since money will be invested at once and the higher capital gains tax base cost will appeal to investors with higher rate tax liabilities.

Shareholders who want to defer the capital gains tax liability on their Globe shares may prefer the Coal funds' investment trust.

Shareholders who can sell their shares without exceeding their £5,000 capital gains tax allowance may prefer other alternatives. The higher base cost could reduce any tax they may become liable to pay in the future.

Chris Hatry, director of unit trusts at L&G, said shareholders who opt for the investment trust proposed by the Coal funds might have to wait six weeks before their money is invested.

For those who need to defer capital gains, the investment

trust was the best option. But they would be out of the market for at least six weeks and the trust would be likely to trade at a 3-5 per cent discount.

"It comes down to whether a unit trust is a sensible alternative to an investment trust," said Mr Hatry. "People have got to make up their own minds on that."

It is thought that about 20,000 of the 37,000 private Globe shareholders have not used up their capital gains tax allowance.

But it may be worth waiting a few days before deciding to see the full range of offers.

Schroder unit trusts is launching a global equity fund aimed at Globe shareholders free of the usual 5 per cent initial charge.

Clive Boothman, Schroder's managing director, said: "Our normal front-end load, equivalent to a 5 per cent discount, reflects our concern for the plight of Globe shareholders and the fact that many will incur capital gains tax on their holdings. We

think Globe is a special situation in which the private shareholder should not come out the loser."

Gartmore fund managers is offering a reinvestment service to Globe shareholders linked to a choice of four unit trusts with a four per cent discount on the offer price.

The discount, Gartmore claims, is equivalent to a price of 213p per Globe share, including the 4p dividend and taking a full front end charge of 5.25 per cent.

There is a choice of the Frontier Markets trust, the Pacific Growth trust, the British Growth trust and the Practical Investment fund which invests in a variety of investment trusts.

The minimum lump sum investment in any of the four trusts is £500. Gartmore is also offering free investment counselling for Globe shareholders considering their offer.

Qualified financial advisers are available on the following Freephone telephone number: 0800 289 336.

Guide kindly Girobank

GIROBANK, owned by the Alliance & Leicester Building Society, hopes to protect borrowers against repayment difficulties by sending a leaflet to customers applying for a loan (Margaret Dibben writes).

The aim is to make sure people only apply for credit if they can afford it.

A Girobank spokeswoman explained: "We want to get the message home to people before they take out any more credit. With interest rates the way they are, it always pays to underline the fact that it obviously can be expensive."

The leaflet, *Guide to Responsible Lending and Borrowing*, includes a sample budget showing typical income and outgoings, enabling customers to compare their own circumstances and work out how much money is left over at the end of the month.

There is advice on what to do for anyone who does start having repayment problems, addresses of organisations which can help and useful hints about shopping on credit.

Girobank is the first bank to send a guide to customers at the point when they are applying for credit, although others keep leaflets in their branches.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25% 20%	Minimum Investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day
Typical					
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	10.81	10.81	8.75	25,000-50,000	1 min 071 828 1587
	11.38	11.38	8.10	25,000-50,000	6 min 071 828 1587
	10.38	10.38	8.30	2,500-no max	1 min Local Branch
	10.38	10.38	8.74	2,500-no max	6 min Local Branch
Lloyds	10.43	10.43	8.38	10,000-no max	1 min 071 590 2292
Midland	10.34	10.34	8.27	10,000-no max	6 min 071 293 2935
NetWest	10.50	10.50	8.48	10,000-24,000	1 min 071 728 1080
	10.38	10.38	8.30	10,000-24,000	6 min 071 728 1080
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland IMAC	10.45	10.37	8.78	2,500/none	051-442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,500/none	0694 262801
Co-operative Ultra	6.00	6.20	4.98	No min/none	071 828 8543
Girobank	9.25	9.25	7.40	1,000/none	051 968 2076
Lloyds MCA	7.00	7.20	5.75	500/none	071 325 3338
Midland MCA	8.50	8.84	7.87	2,000/none	—
NetWest Special Reserve	9.00	9.31	7.45	500/none	071 374 3374
Scottish Bank of Scotland	8.75	8.75	6.89	2,500/none	051-558 8555
TSB (England & Wales)	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000/none	071 600 6900
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.82	1 min	none
Best buy - largest socs:					
Britannic	9.90	9.90	7.82	250 min	none
Northall & Prov	10.50	10.50	8.40	500 min	none
Southall	11.20	11.20	9.09	8,000 min	90 day
Alliance & Leif	11.75	11.75	9.40	10,000 min	90 day
Stratford Hill	12.25	12.25	9.50	10,000 min	1 year
Best buy - all socs:					
Chesnut	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none
Guardian	11.78	11.78	9.30	3,000 min	30 day
De Pennington	12.05	12.05	9.78	3,000 min	60 day
Walthamstow	12.10	12.10	9.70	10,000 min	90 day
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	6 min
Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Barclays	6.75	6.75	5.00	1 min	Rates rise
Alliance & Leif	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	with larger
Northall & Prov	6.00	6.00	4.80	600 min	balances
Anglia Flex	6.00	6.00	4.80	600 min	balances
<small>Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 01 404 6789 for further details</small>					
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	9.00	9.35	8.00	5-10,000	9 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	12.75	7.55	5-25,000	1 min 041-648-4555
Income Bond	13.50	13.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 min 0253 96161
Discount Bond	13.50	13.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 min 041-648-4555
50p Issue Cert	9.50	9.50	8.50	25-1,000	9 day 061-3884800
Yearly Plan	9.80	9.80	8.50	20-200/mth	14 day 061-3884800
Extension Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-no max	5 yrs 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	13.00	12.75	7.50	100-no max	5 yrs 041-648-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
American Life	11.80	11.80	8.98	5,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Centenary Life	11.20	11.20	8.35	1,000 min	3 yrs Gross 59
M&A	10.70	10.70	8.09	1,000 min	3 yrs Very low
Liberty Life	10.80	10.80	8.01	25,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 6786
HS General	10.50	10.50	8.52	1,000 min	5 yrs for details
Holiday rates					
9/11 (June 95-97)	14.0%				£ bags
Bank Swap Rate	15.0%				175.80
Personal Loan	24.3%				8.58
Credit Card	18.5-21%				277.00
					210.00

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0274 558111				guaranteed 1% below standard for 1 year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	14.40	negotiable	80	After 1% off for 1st if society insured
0452 372372				
Northall & Prov	14.40	£50k	95	
0274 733444				
BANKS				
Girobank	14.70	£50k	95	
051 955 2913				
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)				
Leamington Mortgage Corp	14.45	£25-250k	95	Endowment only; Rate held to 11.50
0526 450045				

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Facing trouble with the neighbours

By MARGARET DIBBEN

WITH the long school holidays looming, many homeowners are living in dread of next door's unruly children hitting their cricket balls through the windows and then trampling over the flowerbeds to retrieve them.

The best advice, short of moving home, is to make sure your house building insurance policy is up to date to pay for any damage caused by children, including one's own.

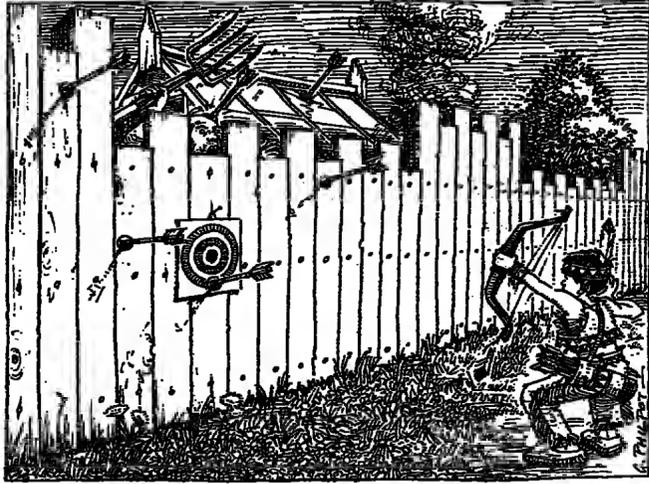
Should next door's children cause damage to your garden or property that is considered excessive, or not covered by your insurance, policy, you can try suing the parents for allowing the children to run riot.

There is no point attempting to sue the youngsters for damage because they could not afford to pay damages even if you win the case.

Philip Dell, underwriting manager at Sun Alliance, explained how insurance companies handle claims.

"To start with, you would have to claim under your own policy, not next door's parents' policy. Then your insurance company would probably advise whether there has been negligence.

"If you don't have any insurance of your own or



don't want to involve your insurance company, then you could probably claim the neighbours were negligent in allowing their children to cause the damage.

He gave an example of how difficult this can be. "We had a case recently where tiles fell off a roof and landed on an expensive car.

"The car owner claimed the neighbour was negligent but the Small Claims Court agreed with the householder that high winds were to blame.

"I suspect that the same thing might happen if small children kick the ball over the fence because this is the sort of thing that children do."

There is no limit to the number of claims you can make on a house insurance policy although, as it is a contract which is renewed each year, the insurance company could, in the extreme, refuse to provide insurance for another year.

But, as a Prudential spokesman explained, while the policy is in force, the insurance company must pay out.

Where a policyholder is making a large number of expensive claims, the company might try to reclaim, through the courts if necessary, some of the cost from

outbuildings in case there is any way they could injure themselves, perhaps by tripping over a rusty wire. If they did, the tables could be turned and you could be sued for negligence yourself.

Most household insurance policies include third party liability insurance for up to £1 million, on which there is no excess. This would pay up if you were successfully sued. But for this to happen, the neighbour must be able to prove negligence.

In a court case last year, parents had to pay £20,000 damages to a girl who was seriously scalded at a children's party they had held 14 years earlier because they failed in their duty of care.

If they had not been able to call on their house insurance, they would have had to pay the money out of their own pockets.

An insurance policy will cover you, your spouse and your children, including any adopted and fostered and children who usually live with you.

It remains in force while visiting other people's homes and even if the dispute arises while on holiday. It will not cover children's friends, but one could still be found negligent for their care.

Breaking the tie of societies on house insurance

By CONAL GREGORY

AN INCREASING number of building society members are finding that they are paying more than necessary to insure their homes and often with little choice of company.

By checking with reputable brokers, it may not be difficult to secure a lower premium and in some cases a more comprehensive policy. But the onus is on the policyholder to take the action.

Mr and Mrs Peter Hooton live in a detached house in Bardsey, West Yorkshire. He is director of an engineering company and they completed a new mortgage for their

£105,350 home in January with National and Provincial. The society quoted buildings insurance at £2.30 per £1,000 of cover. Mr Hooton considered this on the high side and asked his broker to check for better rates. The society's rate was the same whichever insurer was selected from eight nominated ones. These included General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, Legal and General, Royal and Sun Alliance.

His broker, Alan Beardmore of Beardmore Taylor, Leeds, checked the insurance market and suggested Zurich Insurance, which quoted a rate of £1.40 per £1,000 cover. Instead of paying an annual premium of £242.30, the Hootons have paid £147.49. They also chose to pay an extra £5 to avoid the policy's excess. This would have required them to pay the first part of any claim.

The society charged a single payment of £17.25 to check the Zurich policy and to obtain an undertaking that the property would remain insured and not cancelled without their notice. A check of the

policy document will reveal if an excess is applied: usually this will be £500 in the case of claims for subsidence, frost, heave or landslide.

Mr Howard Lazenby, a fee salesman, and his wife Gillian, switched from Eagle Star, which turned out to be the insurer nominated by the Portman and Wessex, because they wanted accidental damage cover in the event that a foot went through a ceiling or a similar calamity. "Until we existed, we had no idea which insurance company was involved," says Mrs Lazenby.

For their tenanted property in Leeds, the Lazenbys were not offered accidental cover or advised which insurer would be used. In fact, the Portman and Wessex, based at Bourne-mouth, Dorset, have a panel of eight insurance companies, all at the same rate. Apart from Eagle Star, the society quotes Commercial Union, General Accident, Guardian Royal Exchange, Legal and General, B&C Insurance Brokers (Lloyds), National Employers Insurance and Sun Alliance.

In the event, they opted for General Accident with accidental cover for their house.

There are schemes available to insurance brokers and consultants for buildings insurance as low as £1.30 per £1,000, with a £25 excess. Minister Insurance offer this rate for a minimum sum insured of £25,000.

Finally, when looking at the policy, check that professional fees of architects, surveyors and legal fees would be reimbursed in the event of a claim. They can amount to a considerable sum, quite apart from rebuilding costs.

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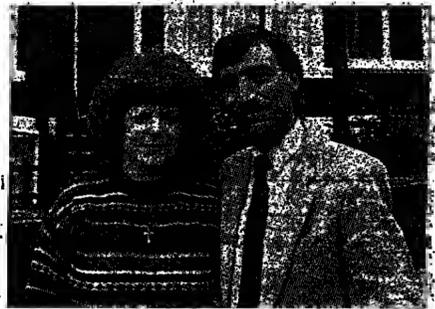
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Switched companies: Howard and Gillian Lazenby

Third World cash plea to water shareholders

By JON ASHWORTH

MORE than 1.3 million water shareholders will be asked to chip in for charity when interim share certificates are sent out next week.

The charity, WaterAid, has

launched an appeal to raise money to improve water supplies and sanitation in poorer Third World countries.

The money raised will help build gravity-fed supplies to bring safe water from the hills to taps in stricken villages. Every day of the year 25,000 children die from water-related diseases.

David Collett, director of WaterAid, said: "We hope that people who have taken a stake in the water industry in this country will respond generously to enable others to implement their own water projects."

Shareholders have until the end of July to complete payments on their water shares.

This will require payments of 70p per share - 60p where the special discount applies if shareholders wish to maintain the status of their current holding.

Many shareholders will not wish to find the extra cash and will consider selling their shareholdings and taking a profit.

The final day when shares can be sold without making the additional payment is next Friday.

MIM Britannia will swap water shares for an investment of at least £1,000 in its TaxHaven Pop, free of dealing costs. The unit trust group expects to take in as much as £5 million from water shareholders.

Portfolio

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 45).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Today
1	+8	+3	+2	+5	+2		
2	+4	+2	+1	+4	+4		
3	+6	+3	+3	+2	+7		
4	+8	+2	+2	+5	+1		
5	+5	+1	+3	+4	+6		
6	+3	+2	+1	+4	+3		
7	+3	+5	+3	+8	+3		
8	+8	+5	+2	+4	+2		
9	+5	+2	+5	+3	+6		
10	+6	+5	+5	+8	+5		
11	+3	+6	+2	+8	+3		
12	+3	+3	+5	+2	+5		
13	+5	+4	+3	+7	+5		
14	+3	+1	+1	+3	+3		
15	+7	+4	+1	+8	+1		
16	+4	+2	+3	+3	+6		
17	+7	+3	+1	+4	+4		
18	+8	+3	+4	+2	+5		
19	+4	+1	+1	+5	+2		
20	+7	+3	+3	+8	+2		
21	+5	+1	+4	+2	+6		
22	+5	+3	+1	+3	+2		
23	+3	+5	+2	+8	+4		
24	+4	+2	+1	+3	+3		
25	+8	+3	+3	+5	+2		
26	+6	+1	+3	+3	+7		
27	+4	+7	+4	+5	+4		
28	+3	+3	+2	+3	+2		
29	+6	+5	+1	+5	+1		
30	+3	+2	+1	+4	+3		
31	+5	+2	+5	+3	+7		
32	+8	+1	+2	+8	+4		
33	+5	+4	+4	+7	+3		
34	+7	+3	+2	+4	+2		
35	+6	+3	+3	+6	+3		
36	+4	+5	+2	+3	+3		
37	+5	+3	+1	+4	+4		
38	+3	+5	+2	+8	+4		
39	+4	+1	+3	+4	+5		
40	+3	+5	+3	+7	+4		
41	+7	+5	+2	+4	+1		
42	+4	+2	+3	+4	+5		
43	+4	+4	+3	+7	+5		
44	+4	+2	+2	+3	+2		

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WEEKEND MONEY

Eurotunnel asks banks to dig deep

By RUPERT BRUCE

THE banks supporting Eurotunnel, developer of the Channel tunnel, are finalising another £2 billion loan to the project before signing a re-financing agreement in September.

After that, it will be the shareholders' turn to stump up £530 million in a rights issue planned for October.

Most of the 208 banks are expected to increase the size of their loans to Eurotunnel by the requested 40 per cent, although some of the smaller ones may bow out.

But persuading shareholders to take up the rights issue at the likely price of 400p will not be easy after the i-fighting and unexpected cost over-runs seen at Eurotunnel over the past year.

Some City analysts feel the present share price of about 483p is far too high, and consequently so is the proposed rights issue price.

Over the past year the shares have plunged from a peak of about £1.80. The rot was started by news of the cost over-run last July, but that was just the beginning.

A bitter battle followed between Eurotunnel and TransManche-Link, the consortium of builders, over the size of the over-run and who should foot the bill.

Last October, the dispute between the two went public when Eurotunnel said the tunnel would cost £7 billion and TransManche-Link £7.5 billion.

In the prospectus in 1987 costs had been estimated at £4.87 billion.

Finally, in January, an agreement was reached in principle when TransManche-Link agreed to pay 30 per cent of any cost over-runs arising from actual digging of the tunnels.

The two agreed to differ



Begging bowl: Alastair Morton is returning with a £530m cash call in October

over a sum of more than £300 million relating to the stations and connecting electric. This will probably be settled by an international court of arbitration.

But then TransManche-Link refused to sign the agreement unless there were staff changes at Eurotunnel. At this point, the Bank of England stepped in to stop the bickering and prevent the project's collapse.

Eurotunnel's co-chairman, Alastair Morton, became deputy chairman and chief executive, and John Neerhout, executive vice-president of the American Bechtel Group, became project chief executive, with responsibility for day-to-day construction.

Come the rights issue in October, the project should be less risky than it is now. The banks should have signed facilities for Eurotunnel to borrow the £2 billion, and the

service tunnel running under the sea should have been completed.

Eurotunnel can be fairly sure that the two running tunnels the trains travel through being dug on either side of the service tunnel, will not encounter unforeseen difficult ground. All tunneling work should be completed by the early autumn of 1991.

However, then Eurotunnel will have to fit out the tunnels and make sure they are running efficiently before the planned opening in June, 1993.

This is an area in which both Eurotunnel and its builders have least expertise and where there will still be a degree of risk.

One insider said: "The shuttle wagons are going to be as big as anything anywhere in the world. It is going to be the busiest stretch of railway anywhere. And we are going to

be lower. But Mr Morton personally believes that Eurotunnel's forecasts err on the side of pessimism.

As repaying the banks is Eurotunnel's first commitment, shareholders could find their 1998 maiden dividend — initially planned for 1995 — delayed even further. Another uncertainty is the absence of plans for a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel tunnel.

But Mr Morton has said that while no link can now be started until 1991, and this will take at least nine years to complete, it will have only a marginal effect on Eurotunnel's traffic and revenue prospects.

Jennie Younger, a transport analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, thinks that bearing in mind the risks the rights issue would not be worth taking at 400p.

Instead, she would prefer a deeply discounted price of around 240p, which Eurotunnel is actively considering as an alternative option if conditions on the British and French stock markets deteriorate throughout the summer.

She expects the share price to drift over the summer, although it may show a small rise if Eurotunnel completes its agreement with the banks in September, and in November when the service tunnel is complete.

Richard Hannah of UBS Phillips and Drew, the broker, is a long-time critic of Eurotunnel.

He said: "Why should anyone invest in Eurotunnel, given the risks, when you can get a much better return in an established equity?"

Mr Hannah thinks that Eurotunnel's price should be about 300p. He recommends the shares should be sold at any price above that.

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Xmark — the stock on the spot

By BARBARA ELLIS

THE drawbacks of dealing in American over-the-counter stocks through telephone operations in Europe have been brought home forcibly to a reader in Edinburgh.

In April 1989 he bought two lots of shares in Xmark Corporation from Indigo Investment of Marbella, Spain. He paid \$4 and \$5 per share in the belief that the company was hoping to become a software supplier to IBM.

But when he asked to sell the shares through Indigo last month, he was told this was not possible as Xmark was no longer on the market.

Thomas Devlin, the Canadian owner of Indigo, told Weekend Money that Xmark was a stock his firm had dealt in some time ago when he thought this was an up and coming company, but things had not worked out that way.

"It was a hot computer deal back in 1988-9 that just never got going," said Mr Devlin.

"We can't find a marketmaker any more — we've been looking for a couple of months." He said the reader's busi-

ness with his company had been initiated in a response to advertisements in the *Financial Times* and the *International Herald Tribune* in 1987-8.

"We are not advertising any longer. We've built up a client base we are happy with," he said. Indigo's main business was in futures and options and portfolio management. It had sold stocks such as Xmark to people who had asked for a recommendation, he added.

Indigo is not authorised to carry on investment business in Britain.

As the Securities and Investments Board's recent court actions against Vandercroon of Belgium established, it has been illegal for unauthorised firms to initiate investment business by telephoning British residents from abroad since April 1988.

Mr Devlin denied reports that Indigo had any connection with the Canadian, Peter Jeffrey, of failed Charter Life.

Checks with American brokers revealed that Xmark still appears in the "pink sheets" covering over-the-counter

stocks. But unusually there was no mention of any marketmaker and no record of any trades for the last 274 days.

Philip Haines, the founder, chairman and chief executive of Xmark based in Irvine, California, said the only real option for shareholders was to hang on in the hope that the company would revive.

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Beware fading memories of those little holiday 'extras'

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

HOLIDAYMAKERS who are planning to pay their hotel bills with credit cards have been given a warning to keep a record of all they spend.

Hotels can send supplementary bills to the credit card companies long after the stay is over and the cardholder has forgotten what he actually ate and drank.

A Weekend Money reader who stayed at an hotel in Edinburgh last month received a letter this week saying that it had debited his Barclaycard account for a further £9.

This was for items which it did not have on its records when he checked out of the hotel. It went on to say that if he disputed the extra bill he should contact the hotel.

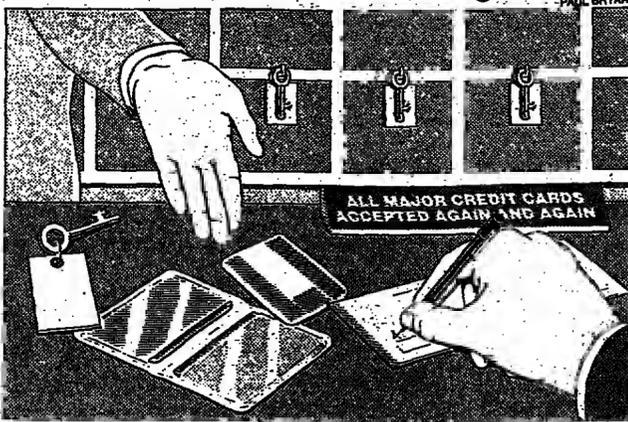
He has disputed one of the items because he knows he never buys chocolate. Regarding the others, he is not sure — three weeks later, — whether he had the drinks from the room's mini-bar or not.

At Barclaycard a spokesman said hotels are entitled to claim their money back if customers checked out before all the charges were known. To obtain this money hotels often put in another voucher.

People paying hotel bills by credit card should ask if the bill includes everything. If it does not, they should make a note of what they have had.

"By the time the second bill comes through they may have forgotten what they had. They should keep the receipt and voucher even after the next statement arrives, as extra charges could come through on the following statement."

At Save & Prosper, Ian Lindsey, banking director,



doubted whether the hotel should debit a credit card account in this way.

He said: "All the customer has to do is to write to the credit card company that the item was not authorised and request them to charge it back to the hotel. At the end of the day a customer is only liable for the amount on the voucher they sign.

"If there is a mistake on the bill they don't have the automatic right to make the charge. If it is put through it would be met by the credit card company. But if the customer complains it should be removed from their bill."

He continued: "If the customer has had the services they are legally liable to pay. It is common practice if an hotel has the card number to make a second charge if they find extra items. It is vital to hang

on to the credit card slips and to check against statements.

"While the hotel may not be technically authorised to make the charge, it may be the

'At the end of the day customers are only liable for the amount on the voucher that they sign'

easiest way the customer has of paying a bill after they have left the hotel. It would be best if the hotel wrote to the customer asking for authorisation to put the charge through first."

Mr Lindsey said that some hotel registration forms are worded to give them authorisation to charge for any bills

by credit or charge card.

"They need to know that they have some sort of security to get the car back and will either ask customers to sign a blank voucher, or estimate the full cost of the hire and charge that at the outset. Then they will make an adjustment when the car is taken back and either make a refund through the card or an additional charge," said Mr Lindsey.

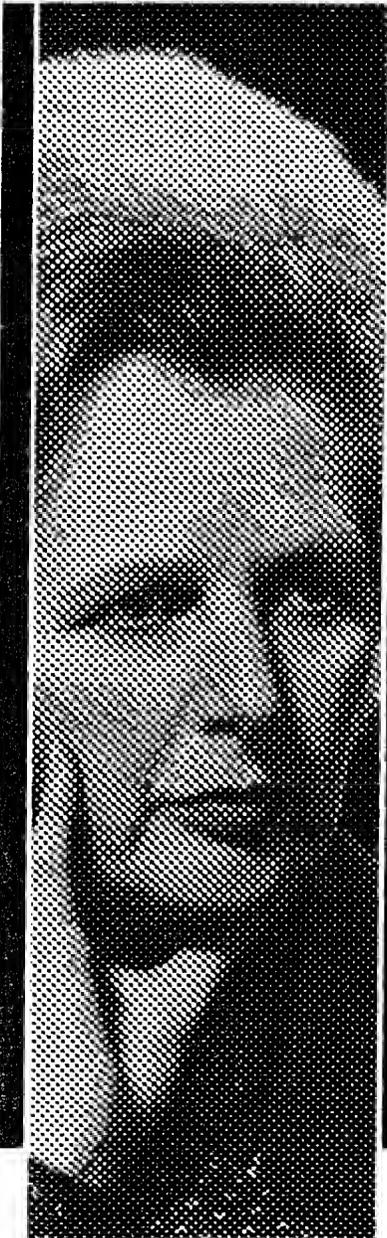
People using the autoroutes in France can pay their tolls by credit card. Cards are wiped through automated terminals and no signature is required by the motorist. But there were few disputes because people remembered which route they had taken, said Mr Lindsey.

Diners Club warned holidaymakers this week never to let their cards out of sight. And it suggests that they should not hand their cards over to waiters in restaurants. "Politely ask the waiter to bring the machine over to you or, filling this, ask to go with him while he processes your card purchase."

"The reason for this is that it has been known for corrupt staff to run two or more slips across the card, reserving them for later when they can copy your signature."

"Not only this, but particularly in the Far East, there have been cases of fraudsters taking an impression and making a replica card."

Customers should always ensure that they never leave a space for anyone to change the total amount at a later date and that the total box has been filled in and that the amount is correct. This prevents restaurants from adding tips after he has signed the bill.



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*Barclays Base Rate. Abstract of Banking Statistics, May 1989. **FT-4 19. British Government Stock Index, gross income reinvested, 1.02 to 31.02. Acuma Ltd incorporated in Delaware USA with limited liability an Approved Recipient of the Acuma Fixed Interest Trust. Reg in England and Wales No 227420. Reg and Financial Office, Acuma House, The Glensy, Egham, Surrey TW20 9LJ. Member of LAUTRO, IANET and the UFA.

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WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

Insurers aim to curb claims

From Mr Roger Gillham
Sir, in reply to "Insurance Rises" (Letters July 3) I respectfully suggest that the British Safety Council do not fully appreciate the measures insurance companies and Lloyd's actually take to prevent claims or the causes of the increasing claims costs.

As an insurance broker with a large personal insurance portfolio I am in a position of seeing at first hand claims prevention procedures and of course handling the actual claims as they arise.

Motor Insurance - Insurers do discuss ways of repairing vehicles more economically and send specialist engineers to inspect most accident damage.

Insurers are now able to influence the motor industry to fit improved locks and factory fitted alarms in some instances.

Many insurers offer window etching services to prevent car thefts.

Surely the best way to improve claims is a better road system and driver training, hardly the insurers' responsibility.

Household Insurance - The majority of claims are as a result of natural catastrophes

- storms, floods etc - even the spate in recent years of subsidence claims, although aggravated by drought conditions, could in hindsight be traced to possible incorrect depth of foundations or sub-floor design.

House insurers do survey high risk properties to improve their security, they do offer discounts off premiums for burglar alarms, door and window locks and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

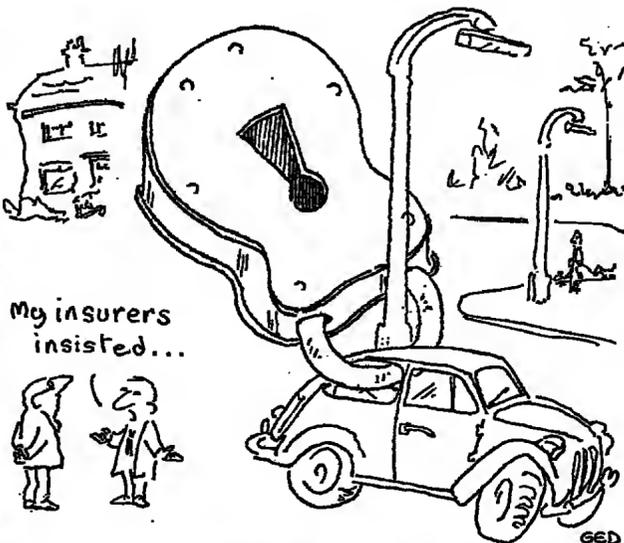
Some even offer smoke alarms at special prices.

I submit that the insurance industry does a lot to minimise claims, after all it is in its own interest.

Motor premiums will tend to follow any increase in car prices and garage repair costs.

Finally, there are so many insurers all competing for business that this fact alone will keep premiums to a competitive level.

Yours faithfully, ROGER GILLHAM, RCM Associates (Insurance Brokers), (Insurance Brokers) Ltd., Guildgate House, 180 High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire, 3 July.



Smaller shareholder suggests Sids seek shorter summaries

From Major G H Chambers
Sir, I was allotted 1,400 shares in the British Gas flotation: soon topped up to 3,800.

I remember writing, having received the first annual report, to suggest that "the Sids" were interested only in the dividend - "how much?" and "when?" (the first takes a bit of looking for in the latest report).

Their answer, of course, was "it's the law". As so often, the law's an ass.

Using the table, for holdings up to 1,000: over 90 per cent of shareholders own an average of less than 400 shares. I am sure they would much prefer a short summary, similar to a typical interim report, which they could understand. If this were permitted, they

would be pleased to know that their company had been saved perhaps about £2 million. Surely the smaller shareholders should be allowed to opt for this? Yours sincerely, G.H. CHAMBERS, St Nicholas, Mead Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

False reassurance from regulators

From Mr L Arrowsmith
Sir, Lindsay Cook stated last week the public want an organisation to complain to if things go wrong.

It seems to me that the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) give false reassurance.

They must be aware that if they do not publicise their addresses they are likely to get little comment from the public. There are always early

signs that the less reputable financial organisations are so.

If Fimbra and Lautro actively encouraged the public to inform them of their doubts they would be able to investigate and act earlier than at present.

Fimbra and Lautro are not effective and do not seek to be effective. Radical changes are needed.

Yours sincerely, MR L ARROWSMITH, Maes Y Llan, Pen Y Bryn Road, Llanfairfechan, Gwynedd.

Giro Keyway versus the direct debit

From Mr P A C Wells
Sir, in view of the cost rising each year, to pay gas and electricity bills by direct debit must be a close second to purchasing stamps for this purpose, as payment is made in advance.

I have a Giro Keyway



account that pays at present 9 per cent interest, and these bills are paid once a quarter. They can be paid by post (free) or at the local showroom. Until BT changed their accounting system it was also possible to pay telephone accounts this way. An added bonus is a £100 cheque card, free Visa, and Link automated teller machines at most of the large building societies and post offices, with my local sub post office as a last resort.

To pay rates in ten instalments my local council insisted on direct debits, and I contended this for the Community Charge. The first payment was taken from my account, but nothing since, even though after checking with my very helpful local Girobank office at 7pm one evening, my authorisation is still in force. I am quite happy to receive the interest while the matter is sorted out! Yours faithfully, P C A WELLS, 23 Raven Drive, Broomhall, Worcester, 7 July.

Solicitors and investment business

From Mr Simon D Baggott
Sir, I write to reply briefly to a number of points made in Mr Peter Eager's letter (June 18) with regard to investment business by solicitors.

Firstly, Mr Eager points out, inter alia, that a solicitor authorised to conduct investment business is authorised to advise on all types of investment business, including futures. Strictly speaking, this is quite true, although to say so without qualification is misleading.

By virtue of Rule 3(1)(c) of the Solicitors' Investment Business Rules 1990, a solicitor is prohibited from entering into margined transactions as an agent for a client; and options, futures and contracts for differences are all mar-

gined transactions for the purpose of this rule.

Secondly, Mr Eager raises the question of embezzlement in the context of the Fimbra rule book.

Solicitors, of course, are regulated to a very considerable extent above and beyond the said rules relating to investment business. One of the effects of this further regulation, is that, on the whole, a client of a solicitor who embezzles that client's money will have his money refunded to him in total and without limit by the Law Society Compensation Fund. Yours faithfully, SIMON D BAGGOTT, (Solicitor), 112 Chorley Road, Sheffield.

Differing priority of duties and benefits

From Mr D J Beard
Sir, Mr Freeman's solution to dissatisfaction with direct debit originators is correct (Letters June 30). It should not be necessary but it is available and effective.

Not all originators under the scheme give the same priority to their duties as to their benefits. Similarly regular payments may be charged to a credit card account but the card company will refuse countermanding instructions. Thus, where the beneficiary proves as hot as British Gas, the cardholder will be unable to shut down a line of credit (and liability) to himself.

If a safeguard exists, the credit card companies are not eager to publish it. Is this,

perhaps, another case where duties attract the lower priority?

Yours faithfully, MR D J BEARD, Lilac Cottage, Gannetts, Todber, Sturminster Newton, Dorset, July 3.

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The more information an independent financial adviser has the better it is for his clients. But that does not appear to be how at least one regulator sees it.

A plan by Provident Life, the insurance company, to give independent advisers issues of a magazine supplement comparing the investment results of pension plans has been shelved after intervention by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro). The magazine detailed the different investment performance that could be achieved by pensions when the policyholder paid for his or her advice by a fee or by commission.

In many cases the survey shows that investors would be better off paying an up-front fee instead of allowing their broker to be paid a proportion of their premiums by the insurance company.

Lautro has decided that the issue of extracts, full surveys or supplements could break projection rules and should not go ahead. The decision means that brokers charged with the duty of

giving clients the best advice under the Financial Services Act are being denied all the information they need.

Weekend Money readers learned last month the advantages that can be gained from paying a fee instead of commission, especially for larger pension plans. The survey of 40 insurance companies showed the affect of commission on a £5,000 a year pension over 25 years could be a reduction ranging from £27,000 to £95,000. Typically, a £500 fee would be charged for setting up such a plan. The chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, David Walker, has decided that it is not the job of the regulators to produce investment statistics. He has called upon newspapers and magazines to do this. It is therefore unfortunate that when a magazine takes an initiative, its good work will not be read by all who need the information.

Advisers who are already

And the blind shall lead the blind



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

aware of the supplement can buy their own copy of *Money Management*. But those who are unaware of the supplement will be forced to remain in ignorance. The Financial Services Act was intended to protect investors from fraudsters and misinformation, not to keep information from its practitioners and consequently those investors.

Only fee-based advice can be totally independent as the broker will not be influenced by commission. If a fee is paid a professional broker loses nothing if the correct advice is for the client to do nothing or to invest in a product which pays no commission to the broker.

Since the maximum commission agreement ended last year the

level of commission paid to independent advisers and tied agents has risen considerably. Insurance companies may feel they have to increase the amount they pay brokers to attract more business. Truly independent brokers reject the inference that they can be bought and there has been a move towards fees in recent months.

There will, however, always be a place for commission-based advice. Some people would not be able to find the fee in addition to all other costs when they are taking out an endowment mortgage. Many resent paying professional fees for accountants and solicitors let alone investment guidance. Others would rather risk themselves they are getting

something for nothing. It would be nice to think that where fees benefit the consumer they will get to know about it.

Churning over

Regulators are beginning to congratulate themselves that the Financial Services Act is reducing the churning of insurance policies. Churning is when a salesman suggests that an investor cancels an existing insurance policy and buys a new one, on which he earns commission.

Even where the existing policy is with a poor-performing house and the new one is with one of the best, the investor is likely to be worse off as a result. Only the salesman benefits.

Surrender values, while improving, still leave investors out of pocket and in some cases there may be no premiums returned at all if a policy is cashed

in during the first five years. Lenders and brokers who used to insist on a particular policy being taken out for the whole of an endowment loan when a special offer was made, now might only insist on the top portion of the loan being covered by their product.

Other lenders keen to improve their share of the mortgage market are offering interest-only loans. These allow the borrowers to choose whether they use an existing policy, a personal equity plan or an expected inheritance to pay off their mortgage.

The strong competition for mortgage business and the flat state of the housing market are the mostly likely reasons why the number of surrendered policies might be reducing. Whatever the reasons it is good news.

The first statistics which might back up the claims will be published in the autumn by the Association of British Insurers.

These give the number of policies surrendered early and the amount of money involved. The statistics will cover 1989 — the first full year of the Financial Services Act.

THE 12,000 investors in Dumenil, the stricken unit trust group, have been told they face a further delay before any decision is reached on a final payment by the company and its trustees (writes Tony Hetherington).

It has become clear, though, that although City regulators may take disciplinary action against the trustees, Midland Bank and Coutts, neither Dumenil nor the trustees will pay compensation to unit-holders who are forced to take a loss.

The French-owned group managed 11 separate unit trust funds, mostly specialising in the stock market of one country, such as Belgium, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. Trading in all the funds was suspended by the company itself on November 6 last year, when officials discovered that they had been publishing incorrect unit prices for as long as 15 months.

It was the first time since unit trusts were launched in Britain 54 years ago that trading in a company's units had been halted.

On December 5 the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the market watchdog, made the dealing suspension compulsory, and on February 5 it ordered all the funds to be wound up. In March, payments were made to unit-holders, based on the correct value of their units as at November 6.

Now, Dumenil and the two banks which acted as trustees have told investors that work has still not been completed to recalculate the correct daily

Dumenil investors face further delay for decision on final payment

prices for their units. Investors who bought or sold units during the 15 months prior to November may well have done so at false prices.

A Midland Bank spokesman said this week: "Unit-holders have had one payment, and those entitled under the reconstruction will get more. There is no guarantee that everybody will get more, because some of the unit values under the reconstruction may be less than we have actually paid out, but we would be asking for money back."

Some investors, though, complain that the enforced winding up of the funds has left them facing a loss, because unit prices at the crucial date of November 6 were below their original purchase price.

An investor in Bedford lost £700 of her original £2,000 investment when her units were cancelled. She said: "I only invested because the name of Midland Bank appeared as a guarantee to me. Somebody must be responsible for this mismanagement."

One investor, Tima Gibbons, has asked Nicholas Ridley, the trade secretary, to bar

Dumenil's French owner, the Banque Dumenil-Leble, from managing any future investment business in Britain. She has also called for action against Coutts and Midland Bank, the trustees whose task was to safeguard investors' interests by monitoring the conduct of the fund managers.

Mrs Gibbons invested £500 in the Dumenil Swiss Growth Fund when it was launched in 1987. She has received a payment of £333, based on the unit's value at the suspension date. All investors who had joined when the fund was launched, and still held their units last November, face the loss of a third of their money.

Unlike investors in funds which merely show a loss due to market conditions, Dumenil's investors cannot sit tight and wait for the market to recover.

Mrs Gibbons says she has been let down by both Dumenil and Coutts, the trustees of the Swiss Growth Fund. "The trust was presented as a long-term investment," she said. "It was on this basis that I bought the units, and I continued to hold them into the autumn of 1989,

despite the possibility of reinvesting the remaining sum."

"I also believe that the trustees involved should not be allowed to evade responsibility for failing to monitor the fund managers adequately."

Dumenil itself has refused to compensate Mrs Gibbons for the loss of her £167. Nigel Herrick, marketing director, who resigned from the company recently, told her: "No guarantee was issued that an original return of capital would be due in the event of any future merging or winding up of the trust."

And Coutts said: "It is appreciated that the winding up is unprecedented, and that it does present you with a situation in which your investment has effectively been compulsorily repurchased from you."

Nevertheless, the bank felt "that the terms of repayment outlined fairly compensate unit-holders who may have lost financially from investment in the fund."

The SIB together with the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, to which Dumenil belonged, have both been in contact with Mrs Gibbons and are considering whether to bring disciplinary proceedings against Coutts and Midland for failing to detect Dumenil's problems over such a lengthy period.

An SIB official said: "We are looking into the issues raised with Inuro, and we expect to come to a joint decision. Questions have been raised all along the line about Dumenil."

The pensions promise that ends with company failure

By BARBARA ELLIS

SINCE the launch of personal pensions two years ago, company schemes have been seeking to hang on to members by promoting themselves as a safer alternative, based on final salaries instead of the unknown future performance of the stock market.

But reality can be very different, particularly if the scheme's parent company runs into difficulties, as recent experience at Rockwood has shown.

Under present law, pension scheme members can be kept in ignorance of their fund's investment dealings for more than a year after they occur. Members also have very few rights if the employer goes into receivership or is declared bankrupt, though the new Social Security Act is to include provisions aimed at improving this position.

Rockwood, a freight and distribution company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market sold two buildings to its pension fund in May this year.

Last month Weekend Money drew attention to the deal. But for press comment, Rockwood's 2,700 pension scheme members would not have learned of this purchase until the middle of next year, even though the amount of money involved was £4.8 million, against the fund's estimated total assets of £20 million. The Rockwood pension scheme has an April year-end and only issues investment information to members in its annual report.

At the time of the property deal, it seemed that Rockwood's pension scheme might find it awkward to comply with the revised rules, to be introduced next year, on investment by pension funds in their employers' businesses or buildings. These will limit "self-investment" to 5 per cent of assets: about one quarter of the level Rockwood's scheme appeared to hold.

Tom Forrest, chairman of Rockwood and a trustee of the pension scheme, insisted that the fund would be able to meet the future requirements on self-investment "without disinvestment of the properties from the scheme."

But last week the whole future of the pension scheme was placed in doubt when Rockwood went into receivership after the failure of a £5 million rescue attempt involving Lee Ming Tee, a businessman based in the Far East.

Receivers called into a company concentrate on trying to sell the business as a going concern, but take no part in deciding the future of the pension fund. This remains the responsibility of the trustees: in Rockwood's case, Mr Forrest and Roger Miller, the Rockwood company secretary.

Theoretically, as a company



Uncertain future: Tom Forrest, chairman of Rockwood

pension fund is a separate legal entity it could continue operating without the company, but what normally happens is that the trustees wind up the scheme and sell off the assets to buy insurance company pensions for the members.

At the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, which handles complaints and enquiries about pensions, Terry Brand, deputy chairman, said that while it is quite normal for directors to be trustees of a pension scheme, too often these people are "not available" when a company goes out of business.

"In some of the worst cases they disappear," he said, "and we have great difficulty in getting promises honoured."

There is no question, however, of Mr Forrest or Mr Miller having disappeared.

Although he did not have statistics, Mr Brand said the service was dealing with dozens of cases of missing trustees. "More than we would wish: some very unpleasant situations last until the whole receivership is resolved."

In some of these cases, the pension fund being wound up did not have the money to meet its commitments.

Margaret Grainger, chairman of OPAS, said the big problem is persuading people to communicate with their employees.

"The large majority of the complaints that come to us are that individuals know their companies are going into liquidation but cannot get any answer to questions about the pension scheme."

She added that one weakness of trust law is that the

trustees themselves might well be made redundant and not realise that they remain liable for the scheme.

Company pensions, bought with the proceeds of scheme assets, fall short of the final salary link that may have lured members to join in the first place. There is, of course, no longer a salary for the pension to be linked to.

"It is a final salary in the sense that if the company goes bust I get a pension based on my salary today," said Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, adding that an allowance would also be made for the number of years completed in the scheme plus the revaluation required by the Social Security Act for people whose service is terminated.

"Members can't get any money now," said Mr Brown. Pension fund money could only be used to provide retirement pensions. However, he noted that people over 50 could be entitled to take early retirement with a lump sum as well as their pension.

Members have no say in which insurance company is to provide their pensions after their scheme is wound up.

"Really you want to deal in bulk overall," said Mr Brown. "It would add to the administrative chore if you consulted all your members."

He added that trustees either made up their own minds which company to choose or went on expert advice, "just as they do with their other investment decisions".

However, the trustees do have to inform members as soon as they start winding up

the pension scheme. Although the statutory limit on how soon a fund must be wound up, Mr Brown said he thought that trustees would usually try to complete the process quickly.

"Being a trustee for a scheme when an employer has gone bust is not pleasant," he said. "If a company in receivership is sold, there is an automatic transfer of the pension fund or the members' pension rights."

If the buyer company has its own pension fund it can offer membership to members of the pension scheme, but is under no obligation to do this, or to match their existing terms. But the buyer company cannot make joining its own scheme a condition of continuing employment.

Trustees of pension funds with a shortfall can make a claim to the employment department against the redundancy fund for up to one year's employee contributions, and up to an amount for employer's contributions calculated in line with the Social Security Pensions Act of 1975.

But insolvency specialists say it is far more common today for the pension schemes of ailing companies to be in surplus and for disputes to arise over what should happen to the spare cash.

"Creditors cannot get their hands on the assets of the pension scheme and it does not matter if the trustees happen to be directors of the company, or if the company has massive debts," said Mr Brown.

However, Colin Bird of Price Waterhouse, who chairs the technical committee of the Insolvency Practitioners' Association, explained that some pension fund trusts decide to include provisions giving the trustees discretion to enhance the members' benefits with any surplus. Any balance left when the fund was wound up would then go back to the employer company.

Many trust deeds also appoint the employer company itself as one, or perhaps the only, trustee, creating a built-in conflict of interest. If the employer company goes bankrupt, the discretionary powers of the company clash with the demands of its creditors.

Receivers have taken such cases to court, but received conflicting decisions. In one the judgment was that the trustee could do what he liked under his discretionary power, but in another the court said the trustee would have to exercise his discretion so that the creditors received the surplus.

But the law is about to change. One of the most important provisions of the new Social Security Act is that in cases of insolvency an independent trustee must always be appointed when the employer company is the only serving trustee.

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NEW 081



Business over: a distribution depot of Rockwood, now under the receiver, with its pension fund in trustees' hands

مكتبات الصحف

The discreet charms of white collar crimes

By ANGELA MACKAY

BUSINESS PROFILE

Monty Raphael

MONTY Raphael, the doyen of that small part of the legal profession specialising in white collar crime, is a coy interviewee.

At first meeting, coy seems a misnomer considering he confessed immediately to being an avid reader of Henry Miller.

However, the qualifications started early with his stated preference for *Colossus of Maroussi* over *Tropic of Cancer* and I was advised to read a book, *Bitter Lemons*, by Miller's great friend, Lawrence Durrell, which would really put me in the picture.

Compact and sleek with collar-length grey hair and a matching close-cropped beard, Raphael, aged about 50, is almost rhapsodic about his love for the law of white collar crime.

He has a passion about the theory and is fascinated by its practice. He makes most of the appearances in the lower courts himself on behalf of his clients and once seen on his feet in court, he is the man many would call if the Internal Revenue discovered their blind trust in Liechtenstein.

For someone who likes to talk, Raphael had to be wooed to speak to *The Times*.

Meetings were held at court, at the Howard Hotel, where Monty is known as a breakfast and luncheon, and there were several top-up conversations on the telephone.

He often said he could not understand why he was a worthy interviewee and raised an eyebrow when he heard his profile might follow that of Lord Alexander.

It is the flourishing of alleged white collar crime that has made Raphael's name and produced a fine income for his firm, Peters & Peters. Indeed, his client list covers many of those involved in high-profile City trials since Big Bang.

The biggest to date is that all-time blockbuster, the Guinness trial, where Peters & Peters represent Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, accused along with Ernest Saunders, Gerald Konsoo and Sir Jack Lyons who together face a total of 24 counts of alleged theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act, 1985. They deny all charges.

The Guinness saga is guaranteed to make well over £200,000 for Peters & Peters and the firms representing the two other defendants who are not legally aided, Lyons and Ronson, according to vague estimates by The Law Society.

Also on Raphael's books is Nicholas Wells, accused of breaches of the Companies Act in the Blue Arrow Affair, Robert Miller the chief of Dundale Securities, the investment house that collapsed last month owing at least £17 million, and the former finance director of the collapsed investment house Barlow Clowes. They deny all charges.

Raphael also successfully defended Ian Fosgate, a former star underwriter on the Lloyd's of London insurance market. He was cleared last year of accusations that he was part of a conspiracy to steal from Lloyd's syndicates.

"Peters & Peters would have to be the first or second port of call if you are well-known and want an authoritative assessment of your position or help in a hurry," according to a barrister at the criminal bar.

"But I don't think Monty is really in it just for the money. He is a workaholic—obsessive about not only about his cases but also the direction of the law and its formulation. His interest borders on the voyeuristic."

Fortunately lawyers are dedicated gossips, particularly about each other. Unfortunately none of them wanted to be quoted by name. "The criminal law on this matter is developing and Monty enjoys being at the forefront of these developments. He can only do this by accepting the big clients and by being on the inside looking out," the barrister concluded.

Raphael says he could see white collar crime growing in the mid-1970s with the introduction of value added tax. "You started to see VAT fraud and its twin crime, tax fraud, mushroom among businesspeople," he said.

"Our firm was already doing a lot of criminal tax work and the multi-disciplinary nature of the practice is appealing. One case can involve tax law, criminal law, commercial law and public law. I don't get bored."

Raphael has also eschewed the glamour of court work to pursue his passion academically in Britain, the United States and West Germany on a Council of Europe fellowship.

The Serious Fraud Office is similar to the West German system which is very different from the United States model. Germany, for example, has specialised prosecutors and courts dealing with white collar criminals.

He will not be drawn on what he thinks about white collar culprits but he must have firm ideas about their psychology and an opinion about that thin line between a deal which is criminal or just clever. He says the Serious Fraud Office does its best but obviously thinks that is not good enough.

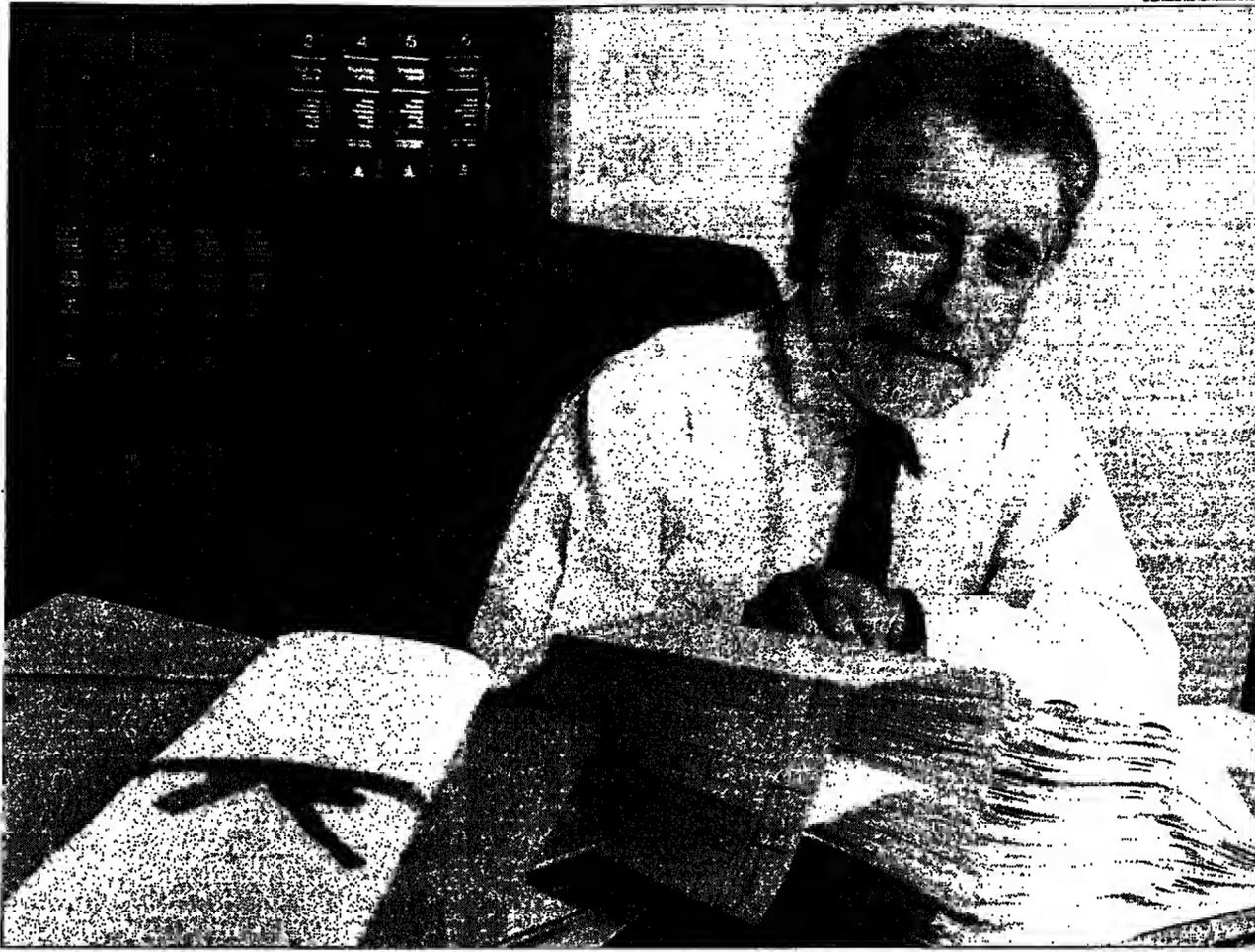
"They can only handle a maximum of 60 cases at one time and an arbitrary number like that does not take 'real life' into consideration."

"Interest in the instance of white collar crime and the development of the law is growing at a rate faster than even I expected."

'He has a passion about the theory and is fascinated by its practice. He makes most of the appearances in the lower courts himself on behalf of his clients and once seen on his feet in court, he is the man many would call if the Internal Revenue discovered their blind trust in Liechtenstein.'

"The International Bar Association (Raphael is chairman of its Business Crime Committee) held two evening seminars about one month ago on the subject and more than 90 people showed up, including several senior members of the Bar."

Once Raphael embarks on his favourite topic, he is hard to hudge. He becomes restive, excitable—within bounds—



Crime's a passion: Monty Raphael, said to have an obsession bordering on the voyeuristic not only about his own cases but with the direction of the law and its formulation.

and tends to stab his scrambled eggs to emphasise a point. "Tell me when we are on the record and off the record, woo't you," he asks.

But this is difficult when just about everything he says is laced with an arch, self-deprecating manner which begs for quotation. Another barrister who has acted for the prosecution on cases where Raphael has been for the defendant said he had the ability to look relaxed even when completely absorbed.

Is this a good thing? "Not really. I am a pessimist. If someone says I am relaxed at work then it might mean I am not working hard

lectures at a college if you must know, makes sure the children have up-to-date photographs of me so they know who I am and recognise me as a source of funds."

Raphael works an average of 14 hours a day. Like Margaret Thatcher, he only needs about five hours sleep and does not partake of any physical exercise since he gave-up tennis several years ago.

Does he have any hobbies? Not really, but he enjoys jazz and holidaying in Tuscany. Does he collect anything? Nothing except legal biographies. He reads copiously. For recreation, he picks up classics, thrillers—particularly Elmore Leonard—and European history. This is done mostly between midnight and 2am.

"I'm reading *Citizens* about the French Revolution and a biography of Coleridge. I have just finished *Middlemarch* and thinking about starting *See Under: Love* about the Holocaust from a child's point of view. I've been thinking for years about reading *Bonfire of the Vanities* but I haven't been able to bring myself to do it yet."

Born in the East End of London of Polish parents—his mother came to London just in time to see Queen Victoria's funeral entourage—Raphael spent a lot of his childhood in Petticoat Lane where his father sold second-hand clothes.

At 11 years, he decided he wanted to be a lawyer when he started reading about Lord Shawcross, the Nuremberg trial prosecutor, in the news-

papers. "He seemed a glamorous and interesting man who impressed my adolescent intelligence," he reminisced.

Raphael briskly summed up his first 22 years. "I went to Davenant Foundation School, an East London grammar school founded in 1666, was articled to Peters & Peters in 1958 and qualified in 1962."

"I think my favourite area of law was decided on the first day of my articles in the Old

Bailey where Sir Peter Rawlinson was defending a businessman charged with fraud."

Raphael does not believe he was influenced by one or two particular role models or did his parents have a marked influence on his choice of career. "My parents' experience was totally outside my ambition. My father, who was the youngest of eleven children, was a shoemaker in a factory before becoming a second-hand clothes dealer.

My brother, my only sibling, was ten years older and a very different person."

"My mother and father didn't know any lawyers or did they have any use for a lawyer—they never bought any property and died intestate."

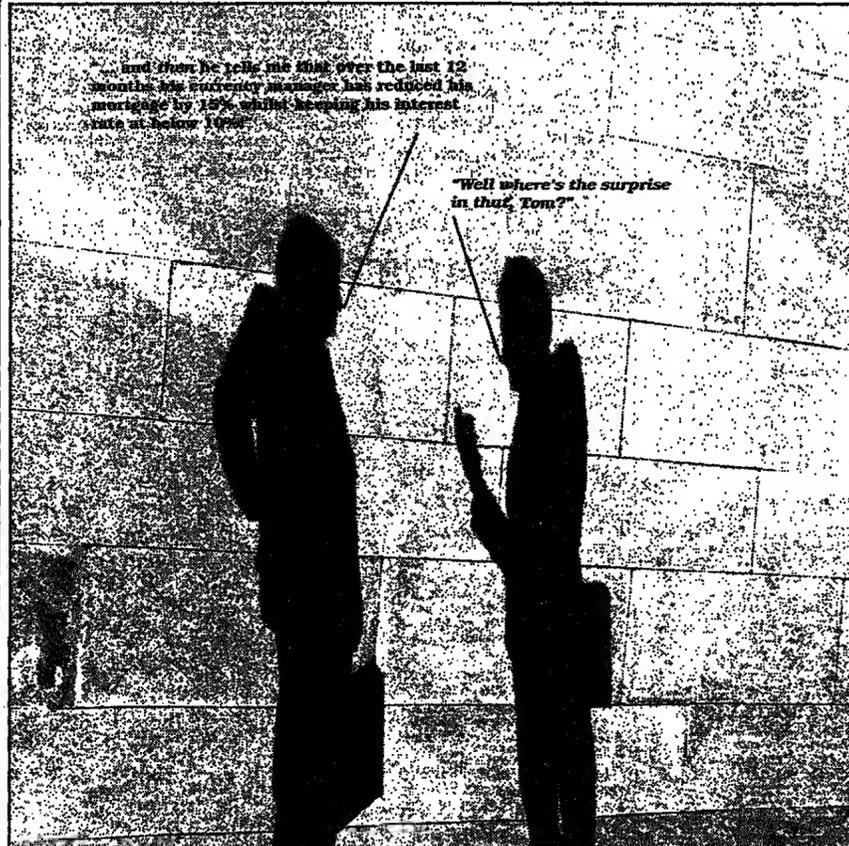
"Of course its only with hindsight that a child realises the enormous personal sacrifices made by parents. My father worked a lot longer than necessary to make sure I could

continue my studies," he said. "I am not politically active apart from having an interest in who governs me."

"What party can lay claim to his allegiance? That is between me and the ballot box."

And what does Raphael, an Eastern European by heritage, think about the enormous change engulfing that region?

"There will be huge growth in white collar crime once the dust from all the political corruption has settled."



and then he tells me this over the last 12 months his property mortgage has reduced his mortgage by 10% whilst keeping his interest rate at below 10%.

"Well where's the surprise in that, Tom?"

Keeping up with the Schmidts

REALLY, these French are impossible to please. Their economy is booming as ever before, their government is stable and, within reason, respected, and the great trek to the beaches and backwoods for their leisurely summer vacation has begun.

But what is the average citizen's view of the future, as relayed to French pollsters (who never seem to take a holiday in this poll-mad nation)?

If not quite unrelieved doom and gloom, the level of *morosité* revealed is striking: a very Gallic concept, this, made up of equal parts of pessimism, moodiness and vague foreboding, with a touch of irascibility thrown in.

Thus, after a year in which purchasing power has risen almost four per cent and the franc has become a hard(ish) currency, more than two in three people are adamant that their standard of living has actually fallen and another third reckon moodily that things can only get worse.

Right on cue, along comes a survey guaranteed to make the French feel even worse. According to a recent survey of international business executives, France is way down the list of preferences for locating company headquarters after 1992: far more popular, in ascending order of choice, were Holland, Britain and, cruelest cut of all, Belgium.

As many an unkind crack here bears witness, the French view of their Belgian neighbours ranges from withering condescension to downright mockery.

Filer en Belge is what crooked businessmen do, bolting when the game is up, while *une histoire Belge* is a story that nobody but a Belgian could find funny. The very idea that Brussels might be infinitely preferable to Paris by

CAPITAL CITY

PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



Tapie: pinched Adidas for France

businessmen is clearly some kind of joke... isn't it?

The fact is that the French, seemingly born with confidence and swagger, worry endlessly about how their lot compares

with that of foreigners: this *nombriisme*, navel-gazing, is particularly evident when it comes to comparisons with the West Germans.

Congratulate a fruit grower in the Midi on his unmistakable prosperity (big new Citroën in the garage, chalet in the French Alps, safari holidays in West Africa) and he will quite likely quote you statistics showing how the income of Bavarian farmers has risen far more dramatically.

A successful sales executive I know gloomily jots down notes about the quality of the excellent French wines his West German competitors order for dinner while he must settle for a mere *appellation contrôlée*.

Small wonder, then, that French hearts swelled with the news that Bernard Tapie—probably the country's most dynamic, not to say flashy, entrepreneur and a leftist MP to boot—has just taken over Adidas, the renowned West German sports goods concern. And what joy to learn that M Tapie had snatched control from under the very nose of a big West Germany group.

"This goes to show that we can beat them on their own ground," crowed M Tapie, for whom *morosité* and *nombriisme* are definitely dirty words: "It comes at a time when France doubts its own strength."

As the owner of France's reigning soccer champions, Olympique Marseille, M Tapie clearly feels that landing Adidas puts him firmly on the international stage.

Who knows, he may even have plans to put together a French squad that can take the World Cup away from those seemingly unstoppable Germans next time round.

Interest rates outside the UK look very attractive at the moment - but exchange rates fluctuate daily.

Therefore, a mortgage using foreign currencies needs careful monitoring to ensure savings made from lower interest rates are not swallowed up by an unwelcome increase in the size of your mortgage.

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VALUE OF PROPERTY: _____
AMOUNT REQUIRED: _____
NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
TEL. NO. DAY: _____ EVE: _____

SUMMARY

Flemings warms to Globe

FLEMINGS has become the latest financial institution offering a new deal for smaller shareholders in the Globe investment trust that this week lost its battle with the British Coal Pension Funds. Flemings is waiving its usual £12.50 fee. It is offering 205p per Globe share and will allow investors to keep the 4p dividend. Page 49

White collar



Monty Raphael, one of the stars of the legal profession, has seen more than his fair share of City scandals. Profile by Angela Mackay. Page 55

Euro blues

Shareholders in Eurotunnel saw the value of their shares surge when the project began, but cost over-runs have taken their toll. The shares have halved in value, yet some analysts feel the price is still too high. Page 51

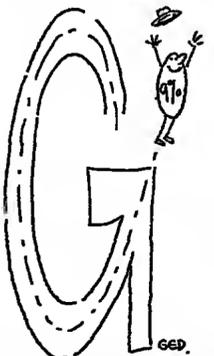
Sale bargains

Shoppers should beware of cut-price deals in sales that are not all that they seem. Gillian Bowditch looks at the dangers and has some tips for buyers hoping to exchange or return goods. Page 46

School is out

The school holidays will increase the chance of accidents around the house. Homeowners should make sure their building insurance is up to date. Page 50

Your views



Insurance companies do more to keep claims down than many policyholders realise. Readers tackle this, along with protection for solicitors' clients, and the value of high interest accounts. Page 53

Pep talk

Personal equity plans can help investors save tax, but choosing the right plan has become harder than ever. Page 48

BUSINESS

Inflation up

Inflation has moved a step closer to the 10 per cent. The annual rate of price increases rose to 9.8 per cent in June, up from 9.7 per cent in May, to reach its highest level since March 1982. Page 40

Bigger losses

Hunterprint Group, the loss-making specialist printer, fell deeper into the red in the six months to end-March. Pre-tax losses reached £6.62 million, against a £2.31 million profit last time and a £2.2 million loss for the full year. Page 41

Sound fight

Shareholders of Sound Diffusion are still fighting for compensation more than 18 months after the electronic equipment leasing company's collapse. An action group represents 11,000 shareholders who claim they were given false information by directors and advisers. Page 43

HOMEOWNERS are learning to live with high interest rates and fewer are falling behind with their payments.

There are even signs of cautious optimism from building societies and other mortgage lenders which are carefully checking arrears and the state of the housing market in the Southeast.

Statistics to be published by the Building Societies Association next month for the first six months of 1990 are likely to show arrears have risen by up to 50 per cent on the figures for the end of 1989.

But lenders who saw a dramatic increase in both the amount owed and the number of homebuyers behind with their payments in the first four to five months of the year are now finding that that trend is being reversed.

This has been coupled with encouraging signs that the housing market in the South has bottomed out and that more buyers are entering the market. Most of these are attracted by reduced house prices and mortgage discounts.

But the hope of falling mortgage interest rates coupled with rising wages are encouraging lenders to think that the mortgage market will return to normal next year with house price inflation running at the same level as wage increases.

None of the large lenders expect a fall in interest rates this year or a national rise in house prices.

At Nationwide Anglia, the second largest building society, retail operations director, John Hutchinson, said: "We think the Southeast has had its bad days and is beginning to firm up."

"It would not take much for the market to start humming again. There's a great deal of pent-up need to move."

He continued: "We are back where we were in the first quarter of 1988 in the Southeast. We would be happy to see a gentle move this time."

"A ridiculous price spiral, like the one started by the 1988 Budget's abolition of double tax relief, only benefits the sharks. We should see some sense now. I am genuinely hopeful, but it will be the beginning of next year before I can see a rise in prices."

The Halifax building society, the largest lender, reported this week that house prices in the South are eight to fifteen per cent below those of a year ago. But the Halifax feels that prices have at last bottomed out in the region. In the Midlands and Wales prices are up to 5 per cent down while in the north they are still showing substantial increases.

The Halifax reported that the ratio of house prices to average earnings has fallen from five times to 4.5 times earnings and should have fallen to four times by the end of the year.

This will be brought about by wage rises and "limited price falls in 1990", which should pave the way for a "firm recovery" next year, it says.

The Household Mortgage Corporation also predicted this week that as incomes start to catch up with prices people will start to re-enter the market.

It optimistically suggested "this process will be given a further

Glimmer of hope on home front as arrears level out

Estate agents can afford to breathe again as signs emerge that Britain's property market has turned the corner out of recession.

Lindsay Cook reports on the reasons for a cautious mood of optimism.



Sales: Brian Gladwin of Royal Life Estates



Hopful signs: estate agents report that the market is firming as wages catch up prices

boost if we are correct in our assumption that the government will reduce the basic rate by 2p in the pound."

The Household Mortgage Corporation expects an average increase of about 6 per cent next year but its house price forecast, prepared by the Henley Centre, said that this hides the fact that house prices in Britain are likely to be increasing faster than retail price inflation by the end of the year.

"Moreover, this pattern is likely to continue into 1992. We are currently forecasting that average house prices in Britain will increase by about 11 to 12 per cent in 1992 compared with a forecast underlying rate of increase in retail prices of 5.6 per cent."

At the Halifax, Gary Marsh, head of group planning and research, said: "Before there can be a recovery in the market there has to be a fall in interest rates but we are beginning to feel confident that

the market is no longer in the downspin it was."

"There has been a feeling for the past two or three months that the market is levelling out in the Southeast. If you look at the price index, house prices in the Southeast are now 'back at the levels of the spring of '88."

"A good proportion of people who are buying now are first time buyers. Those people who have delayed buying have seen their incomes grow. One or two are beginning to look at interest rates and buying in the view that they will come down before too long," he said.

"I don't believe in gambling on interest rates but I'd be surprised if bank base rates had not come down by two or three points by the end of next year," he added.

The Halifax had seen a sharp rise in mortgage arrears in the first three months of the year in the four southern regions but had noticed the month on month

increase slowing over the last two months, said Geoff Jackson, general manager. "We actively manage arrears and will go along with reduced payments for a long time. We want to make sure they keep paying."

"The encouraging sign is that the rate of increase has slowed considerably. People are seeing a chink of light. They're beginning to see that rates may be coming down and are doing what they can to make the payments."

"This is the longest period of high interest rates that people have had to live with. They are extremely realistic and appreciate it's a long-term process to get themselves sorted out if they fall into arrears."

"The Citizens Advice Bureau are doing a great job on this."

The Halifax has seen an increase of 20 to 30 per cent on its four to twelve-month arrears compared with the end of 1989. At Nationwide Anglia, Mr Hutchin-

son said the building society's arrears were back up to the 1987 level, when they were nationally at an all-time high.

The number of people behind with payments had risen by 50 per cent in the first six months of the year, he said.

This experience was also shared by another large lender, that did not want to be identified. "Its spokesman said that since January it had seen a 50 per cent increase in arrears although in June the weekly increase had been slowing down."

"Wages are increasing and people are more adjusted to their total outgoings. Other loans, such as credit cards and hire purchase, are working out of the system and they are not taking on any others," it said.

1989 the top 13 societies and Abbey National took 7,430 homes into possession.

It therefore looks likely that about 10,000 people lost their homes in the first six months of the year.

Estate agents are also reporting signs of a firming of the property market, but they are still a long way from being out of the woods. This week Prudential Property Services announced that it is to reduce its residential estate agency network by 175 branches.

It is also to introduce more competitive commission rates to reflect local market conditions. The Prudential currently charges 2.1 per cent of the price achieved in the North, Birmingham, Wales and central London. And in the Southeast the charge is 2.3 per cent.

These charges are now likely to reflect the usual price differential between North and South.

The cheapest commission rates are in the North, with 1 per cent, plus advertising costs, common. In Greater London some agents charge more than 3 per cent, especially when a property is on the books of another agent as well.

Brian Gladwin, managing director of Royal Life Estates, the largest estate agency with 760 branches, said: "We're not putting any thought into the market picking up until next year. We are just budgeting for next year."

"The week by week sales are better than they were but the market is as flat as can be. Only when interest rates fall will there be a proper recovery."

"The South has recovered comparatively but the Northwest and Northeast are really bad. I would guess that sales this year will be only 90 per cent of last year's total, and we have kept our market share."

Royal has varying commission rates, which start at 1 per cent in the north and go up to 2 per cent in the south. Where multiple agency is concerned, the price can be as high as 3 per cent. It has also closed some 60 branches over 12 months, mainly in the South within the M25. "This was the area that was hit first," said Mr Gladwin.

He said that estate agents had to take more people to view properties to make a sale and generally had to do more work than when the market was buoyant. Because of this there was no sign of commission rates being reduced to find more business.

"If anything some independents have been pushing the rate up to cover the extra costs and the fact they are selling less properties."

David Goulden, group managing director of Halifax-Property Services, Greater London, said that while interest was picking up sales had not done so yet.

"We're most active at the bottom with the first time buyers. The thing that's really going to unlock the market is the first reduction in interest rates. We're looking forward to the second half."

The commission rate for sole agency is 2.75 per cent and 3.25 per cent for multiple agency. The Halifax chain, which is now the second largest, charges varying rates in the different regions.

Strong pound pays for gamblers with foreign currency mortgages

By RUPERT BRUCE

FOREIGN currency mortgage holders have gained over the past six weeks as the pound has soared led by speculation that the government will soon take sterling into the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) of the European monetary system.

Those who borrowed in European currency units (ecus), or marks, to buy homes in Britain saw their loans grow in size by about 10 per cent in the months after Nigel Lawson resigned as chancellor last October. But they have now seen the loans return to the size they were before his resignation. They have also benefited from an interest rate saving on their loan of between 3 and 6 per cent.

But this volatility — the pound has swayed from just under 3DM to about 2.70DM and back again — only illustrates how unsuitable this mortgage is for most homebuyers.

Mark Brett, bond and currency strategist, at BZW, said: "I am in the business of forecasting what happens to currencies and I wouldn't have one of these things. If a client rings up to talk about them, I ask are you in the business of putting £100,000 bets in the foreign currency market. You hear about companies every day getting into trouble from their foreign exchange positions."

The first active marketing of foreign currency mortgages took place in 1988 and progressed as British interest rates climbed. Borrowers were aware they could get mortgages at cheaper rates of interest than at home in Europe, the United States and Japan. Many did not know that the size of their loan would fluctuate.

Basically, if the pound rises by 10 per cent against the currency the mortgage is in, the loan size falls by 10 per cent. But if the pound falls by 10 per cent, the loan size rises by the same amount.

Relatively few people have taken out these mortgages, but many have done so without being



Risks in ecu mortgages: Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities

aware of the risks. John Charcol, the mortgage broker, estimates about £350 million is borrowed in foreign currencies each year, against total mortgage advances of £34 billion in 1989. The broker, which stopped advertising foreign currency loans because there were too many "cowboys" in the market, is launching a new range of currency mortgages next week. Homebuyers will need a salary of at least £40,000 a year and will be limited to borrowing two-and-a-half times the annual income.

The mortgages will be managed by ECU group, which looks after foreign currency exposure for 470 clients.

Kean Seager, managing director, of Whitechurch Securities, the financial adviser based in Bristol, has a £100,000 ecu mortgage. He

has seen his loan rise to £109,000 and then fall back to about £100,000 since he took out the 25-year mortgage 12 months ago.

"We will only arrange these mortgages for businessmen who are used to taking risks as part of their business. We will only do it if we feel they are aware of the risks," he said.

In recognition of this risk, foreign currency mortgages are typically only available for up to 60 per cent of a property's value. If the loan rises to between 70 and 75 per cent of the value, it is automatically switched back into sterling.

Mr Brett thinks when the pound has settled into the ERM, there may be a case for borrowing in ecus. Until then he regards foreign currency mortgages as highly dangerous.

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